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# WILLIS RECORDS;

OR,

## RECORDS OF THE WILLIS FAMILY

OF

## HAVERHILL, PORTLAND, AND BOSTON.

BY

PAULINE WILLIS.

*THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER,*
*HAMILTON WILLIS.*

LONDON:

PRINTED BY ST. VINCENT'S PRESS,

333 HARROW ROAD, W.

*"In treasuring up the Memorials of the Fathers,*
*we best manifest our regard for Posterity.*

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1665

# INTRODUCTION.

THE Rev. Abner Morse in his "Genealogical Register," page 181, says, "Willis is one of about twenty British names derived from Will, alias Wille. It is a Welsh patronymic, answering to Willson and Willison in English.

"Upon our records, before the orthography of names became settled and uniform, it was spelled Wills, Willes, Wyllys, Wyllis, Willis, in reference to the same persons, until the latter spelling became nearly universal.

"This name, although extremely common in this and the Mother Country, may not claim a very high antiquity.

"It probably had no existence in its present form until the Welsh began to drop the prefix 'Fitz' in exchange for 's' final, to denote the son of Wille.

"Among the immigrants to New England in the eighteenth century, twenty of the name of Willis appear."

It is not easy to find the lists of all who left the shores of England in the early days, as only the names of those who came legally were taken. This meant that passengers were examined by the minister touching their conformity to the Church discipline of England, if they had taken the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy; also it was certified that there were no subsidy men: that is, men who were liable to the payment of a subsidy to the Crown.

It cannot be doubted, therefore, that among the thousands who emigrated to New England, a large number came to avoid paying this subsidy, or that they would not take the oaths mentioned. These, therefore, must have left secretly, and no record exists of their departure.

This we have given in J. C. Hotten's "Original Lists."

From a Manuscript of William Willis, Book U, in the Portland

Public Library, we find:—"Willis.—The first of this name I meet upon record are Michael Willis and George Willis, who were admitted freemen of Mass., May 2nd, 1638.

"Another family of the same name arrived early at Plymouth and settled among the first in Bridgewater. Their names were John, Nathaniel, Laurence, Jonathan, and Henry. There was also a Richard Willis early in the Plymouth colony. The Connecticut family of Wyllys was a branch of the Massachusetts family. Many of the name lived in Medford, but where they originally settled I cannot determine. The second on the Probate Records of Suffolk of the name is Mildred, widow of Michael, whose will is dated September 20th, 1680, and proved March following. Michael's will was dated 1669. Their sons were Experience and Michael: Michael's will was proved October 7th, 1669, and is the first of the name on the Probate Records of Suffolk."

Then in a tribute to the memory of Hon. William Willis, of Portland, Maine, read before the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, at its stated meeting Thursday evening, March 3rd, 1870, by Charles Henry Hart, Historiographer of the Society, he says:—"The paternal ancestry of Mr. Willis can be traced with certainty to Michael Wills, or Willis, of Dorchester, Mass., who, with George Willis of Cambridge (likely his brother), was admitted to the freeman's oath in 1638, and became a founder of the Second Church in Boston, June 5th, 1650.

"His will was proved October 7th, 1669, probably not long after his death. He had a son, Michael, born November 11th, 1652, whose son, Michael the third, born July 4th, 1692, was the father of Benjamin Willis, born September 11th, 1717" [Or was it not September 1st?—P.W.] "who perished at the Siege of Louisburg, leaving his wife Ann Gammell, and an only son, born January 10th, 1743, and named for his father, to survive him. This Benjamin, the second of the name, died November 11th, 1811."

He it was who married Mary Ball of Charlestown, and is certainly our ancestor.

Mr. Hart seems to affirm positively the Michael Willis ancestry.

The descendants of George Willis (just referred to as probably a brother of Michael) moved early to Medford, Mass., George's son Thomas going there after having lived in Billerica, where he had three or four children. The Medford Records give several children of his born in that town as well.

Stephen Willis (his brother) son of George, went also to Medford

in 1678, having lived at Braintree. This may account for the mistake which Savage and W. H. Whitmore have made, in trying to prove our descent from George instead of from Michael. There were so many of the name at Medford.

Mr. Whitmore, after tracing the George Willis line, says in his "Medford Genealogies," page 67:—"Benjamin Willis married Ann Gammell of Medford, and *was probably* connected with the Medford branch, *very likely* as son of Benjamin."* The Benjamin he refers to was a son of the above-mentioned Stephen Willis and Hannah Eliot, and, therefore, a grandson of George Willis. It will be seen that this is mere guesswork on the part of Mr. Whitmore, and that he does not even try to prove in any way what he asserts, no list of the children of Benjamin (Stephen's son) being given, and he adds: "The foregoing are all that can be found on our Medford Records." Therefore, he simply *imagines* to be true what he states. Later on it will be shown, from a deed in the Suffolk Registry of Deeds in Boston, that the first three Michael Willises in that city were father, son, and grandson. The wife of the last Michael was *Mary*. Then from birth records there we find that a *Benjamin*, born September 1st, 1717, was a son of *Michael* and *Mary* Willis.

There is no record in Boston or Medford of Benjamin Willis marrying Ann Gammell, though such a marriage, with no date given, is stated in Mr. Morse's book, page 201, and the record may be lost or exist elsewhere. There is, however, the birth record in Boston of "Benjamin, son of Benjamin Willis and Ann his wife, born January 10th, 1743." He was the husband of Mary Ball, as mentioned above.

Rev. Abner Morse, who was well-known to our relation William Willis the historian, and frequently corresponded with him on genealogical subjects, as is shown from letters among the Willis manuscripts in Portland, distinctly gives in his book our descent from Michael Willis.

There is one letter from him in the Willis Manuscripts, Book B, No. 30, in which he traces us back to George Willis. As he does not publish this descent, he undoubtedly found later that it was not correct or impossible to prove it.

William Willis says in his Manuscripts, Book Y, 34-43:—"We seem to have been in error in claiming *George* to have been our ancestor. Rev. Abner Morse, in his genealogy of the family, makes *Michael* to be our ancestor."

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* All italics in this book are mine.—P. W.

Also in Volume II. of the Scrap-books of Hamilton Willis, now in possession of his daughter Pauline, there is this note, copied from a letter he had received from William Willis:—"The Willis name was very common and very respectable in the early days of the colony. *Michael*, from whom *we descended*, was made freeman in 1638, founder of the Second Church in Boston, 1650. You are in the eighth degree from him, your father the seventh. Edward Willis a merchant in Boston, was appointed to carry the target at the funeral of Governor Leverett in 1679; he died in 1699. There were also George, William, Thomas, Charles, etc. I am truly sorry that the name in my branch will fail in me. You must transmit it in yours."

In the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register," vol. xx., page 6, there is a record of a Willis family from an old Bible printed in London. The names and dates seem to prove it to be the George Willis branch. This is interesting if George and Michael were brothers.

In a preliminary chapter the Michael line will here be given at length, including the Benjamin Willis, *said* to have married Ann Gammell and to have died at Louisburg.

There is no desire to force the idea that this is the authentic ancestry of our family, though there seems a strong probability of its being so. Stephen Phillips of Salem remembers his grandmother (Mary Willis Duncan) telling him that her great-grandfather was killed at Louisburg. He would have been the father of Benjamin, Mary Ball's husband, and probably the son also of Michael and Mary Willis.

After the first chapter, our undisputed family history will be traced from this Benjamin Willis of Charlestown, who married Mary Ball, down to the last birth in the family at the time of publication, as far as it has been possible to obtain information.

There have been three of the name of Benjamin, and three of the name of Hamilton, in the direct line of the eldest sons from 1743, and it is according to this plan that the various descents are now arranged in consecutive chapters.

At the present day, unfortunately, there is no *male* representative living bearing the name of Willis in the oldest branch, or in fact in any but one branch of this once numerous family. The grandson and great-grandson of George Willis (who was the third son of Benjamin and Mary McKinstry Willis) alone remain to carry on the good name, and we must all hope that it may still go down through them to many future generations.

This work claims no literary merit, but aims to be exact. It is an

attempt to gather together in one volume records of our family that are scattered in various books, and to preserve certain traditions and reminiscences before they are entirely forgotten.

References have been made to Rev. Abner Morse's "Genealogy," Wyman's "Estates of Charlestown," James Savage's "Genealogical Dictionary," W. H. Whitmore's "Medford Genealogies," to the Manuscripts of William Willis in the Portland Public Library, and to various other books at the New England Genealogical and Historical Society in Boston.

Grateful thanks are due to my cousins, Mrs. Wendté, Mrs. Stephen H. Phillips and her sons Stephen and Duncan, Mrs. Ellen Ware and her son Richard, Mrs. Samuel Parris and Elsie Parris, Lena Willis, Mrs. Charlotte Mansfield, Isabel and Kate Willis, Benjamin Willis Wells, Gurdon Howe, and Willis and Paul Watson, who have so kindly helped me in this undertaking. Also to Mr. Nathan Gould, of Portland.

The account of the life of William Willis the historian has been written by his grandson Paul Watson. The illustrations are of those who are entitled to the Willis name by birth. There is also one of Mary McKinstry, and one of the family tomb in Portland, Maine, and the graves in Haverhill, Mass. It has been necessary to limit in some way the many pictures existing that are connected with this subject.

PAULINE WILLIS.

3, Kensington Gate,
London, England.
October, 1906.

# CHAPTER I.

## MICHAEL WILLIS, 1ST, 2ND, 3RD.

## BENJAMIN WILLIS AND ANN GAMMELL.

# MICHAEL WILLIS, 1ST, 2ND, 3RD.
# BENJAMIN WILLIS AND ANN GAMMELL.

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## MICHAEL WILLIS I.

MICHAEL[1] WILLS, or Willis, *is said* to have come from London, England, in 1635, sailing on the ship "James" from Bristol. Rev. Richard Mather was also on board, and they arrived in Boston on August 17th. No authentic account of the departures from Bristol at that time, however, is to be found. In lists kept at the Admiralty Office in London we have mention of two voyages between 1635 and 1640, made by a vessel named the "James," Mr. May master, *from* the Port of London to New England. This we find in the May Book. Perhaps the "James" merely touched at Bristol after starting from London.

Mr. Willis was a member of the church in Dorchester, Mass., where he evidently went soon, if not at once, on reaching America. His fellow-passenger, Mr. Mather, was settled over that church the year after his arrival until his death, which might naturally account for Michael Willis going to the same place. Among the records of the First Church there, page 3, under heading 5, mention is made of "Michael" and "Joane Willys" as members admitted about 1636. The names are placed opposite each other, as of husband and wife, and there are also various other Willis names in the same book.

Michael, with George Willis of Cambridge, Mass., were admitted to the freeman's oath in 1638. In "Records of Boston Miscellaneous Papers," page 132, at the old Court House, "George Willis" and "Michael Willis" are given among the list of freemen under date May 2nd, 1638. Michael's name comes first, possibly as the elder. This may mean that they were brothers, and acted together on the same day, and there is some evidence in connection with property deeds, given later, which points to this relationship.

George Willis, who is spoken of as "of Cambridge" in a petition to Governor Andros, dated 1688 from there, stated that he was eighty-six

years old, and that he had lived in Cambridge nearly sixty years. One must take this statement, however, with qualification, as that town had been settled then only fifty-six years, and the records show that he was not acknowledged as a resident until six years afterwards. He probably reckoned from his arrival in the country (perhaps before Michael's coming), including several years of residence in the neighbourhood, though where is not mentioned. As the freeman's oath implied church membership, and his name not occurring as early as 1638 in Cambridge Church records, he *may* have been a member at Dorchester, as Michael was.

In the Portland Public Library there is an interesting letter among the Manuscripts of William Willis, Book E, Letter 23, from Joshua Coffin to William Willis, dated Boston, May 14th, 1831 :

" Dear Sir,

" About a week since I made a discovery which I was on the point of communicating to you. You recollect that under the arbitrary government of Sir Edmund Andros, petitions were sent in from several towns to the General Court complaining of his conduct. Among these petitions was one from Cambridge by George Gibson, age eighty-seven years, and George Willis, age eighty-six years, stating that they had resided in Cambridge near sixty years. Now, as this petition was written in 1688, it is certain that George Willis was born as early as 1602, and settled in Newton, now Cambridge, as early as 1628 or 1629. This leads to an enquiry, how came he there so early ? When the Spragues came to Charlestown in 1629 they found but one person there, Thomas Walford a smith. Were Gibson and Willis higher up the river at the time, or is it not probable that they came with the Spragues ? In that case they may, or may not, have crossed the Atlantic with Governor Endicott's company. If you look in ' Farmer's Register ' you will find the name of *George Willow*. The petition above alluded to has been in print for many years, and has the name '*George Willow*.' It is plainly written '*Willis*' in the original, which Farmer never saw. You will, therefore, read *Willis*, not *Willow*.

" (Signed) Joshua Coffin."

George Willis married Jane Palfrey, who, on joining the church in 1640, spoke of being formerly in Newcastle and Heddon, England. She was a widow with children, John and Elizabeth Palfrey. George is supposed to have been married himself previously, being a widower with two or more sons, one of which was also named John.

This last John, with his own brother Nathaniel, were joint proprietors of a two-acre lot in Dorchester, remote from the village, and probably assigned to a previous owner. This former owner may have been George Willis, who would naturally have given it to his two sons, possibly on settling in Cambridge himself. George Willis died in 1690, his wife Sarah (perhaps a third wife) surviving him. At the Boston Court House, in the Registry of Suffolk Deeds, vol. ii., page 249, there is a deed dated May 12th, 1656, made by one "Michael Willis, now of Boston, in Suffolk, in the Massachusetts Colony, New England," in which he sells unto Richard Leedes of Dorchester, in county aforesaid, all his common rights in the town of Dorchester, and the said rights he, Michael Willis, purchased of John Willis. This *may* have been his nephew, the son of George. There is also another deed in the Suffolk Registry, vol. ii., page 177, dated July 18th, 1655, between Michael Willis and Edward Ting, regarding house and lands.

Michael Willis became a founder of the Second Church in Boston, June 5th, 1650, and his name is mentioned in the history of its foundation, so that he probably gave up his residence, as well as his property, in Dorchester, and moved to Boston. He was admitted as an inhabitant there in 1647.

Among the Willis Manuscripts in Portland, Book H, Letter 25, we find one from James Savage, dated Boston, March 2nd, 1848, to William Willis:

"Dear Sir,

"Your communication of last month, giving the sufficient reports of George and Michael Willis, both of whose names had been given with material variation in our books of reference, deserves my sincerest thanks."

Later on he adds, having "obtained the fact of Michael as well as George being in truth entitled to write Willis, my only addition as yet is that Michael was of Dorchester, before coming to found, with others, the Second Church here."

Michael Willis is said to have been connected with the building of ships. His sons had the same interests, and his grandson was called "Mariner." It would almost seem that this was a strong link to connect our known line with his. In our own family we have had several members who have gone to sea, and so often these tastes for a particular occupation are inherited.

To return to the first Michael, he was prosecuted for repairing in

those early days a gun-lock belonging to an Indian, this being contrary to the law, but was discharged from his fine December 1st, 1641, on the ground of not knowing that it was the property of an Indian. On September 10th, 1653, with three other members of the new church, "Michael Willis of Boston" petitioned the General Court to remove an injunction by the magistrates against the ordination of Mr. Powell as their pastor.

Michael's first wife was Joan, no surname given. She was probably married in England, going to America with him, their names being recorded the year after he landed in the Dorchester church, as previously mentioned. His second wife was Mildred, who survived him, again no surname given.

In the "Records of the First Church, Boston," page 212, at the old Court House, mention is made of Mildred Willis, May 7th, 1693. Michael Willis died probably in 1669. His will is in the Boston Probate Court House, vol. vi., page 65. The original is missing, but a copy is there, dated July 24th, 1668. At a meeting of the witnesses, October 5th, 1669, they speak of him as "the late Michael Willis," and declare that they saw him sign and seal it. The will of Mildred Willis his widow is in the same Probate Office, vol. vi., page 379, dated September 20th, 1680. On March 2nd, 1681 or 7, the witnesses proved her signature, implying that she died that year. In vol. ix., page 72, there is a detailed inventory of her possessions, appraised at £77 6*s*.

In the First Report of Record Commissions of Boston, pages 40 and 48, among the names of "well-known and wealthy citizens" who paid taxes, we find

Mildred Willis
Experience Willis } 1674.

On page 60, regarding taxes and valuations in Boston, "Widdow Willis and her son, houses and wharves 40, Estate 30," 1676. On page 73, in Captain Hutchinson's Company, 1681, "Experience Willis."

Children of Michael Willis[1] by wife Joan are:

1. Joseph,[2] baptized February 3rd, 1639, in Boston, probably died young.
2. Experience,[2] died prior to 1716. In Dorchester Records, page 23, "Experience Willis and Elizabeth Botton mar. by Mr. William Stoughton, October 25th, 1676."
3. Temperance,[2] bap. February 9th or 13th, at First Church, unmarried.
4. Joana,[2] bap 13th (2), 1651, mar. John Ellis.

By wife Mildred are:

5. Michael,[2] b. November 11th, 1652, d. 1711-12, mar. Elizabeth Lowden.
6. Adingstil,[2] d. September 6th, 1658; Boston Records, page 66.
7. Abigail,[2] d. November 7th, 1696, was first wife of John Leader of Boston, and second wife of Thomas Bill.
8. Lydia,[2] who mar. George (?) Nowell, their children in Boston Records.
9. Elizabeth,[2] mar. Zachariah Phillips and had Joseph.

---

## Summary of Descendants.

Experience[2] the older son had the same occupation as his father. He married Elizabeth (she may have been a widow of Mr. Botton), whose maiden name was Lemon, who was admitted to the Second Church in Boston, March 23rd, 1677; died in 1720 as a widow. Her daughter Elizabeth administered the estate. In the new Court House Boston, vol. xxii., page 23, there is a letter of administration, signed Samuel Sewall and dated November 14th, 1720, allowing Elizabeth Carder of Boston, daughter of Mother Elizabeth Willis, *alias* Lemon of Boston, widow deceased intestate, to administer estate.

Children of Experience Willis[2] by wife Elizabeth are:

1. Mary,[3] b. October 9th, 1670.
2. Michael,[3] b. July 9th, 1674.
3. Experience,[3] b. May 28th, 1676, died young.
4. Elizabeth,[3] b. December 8th, 1677, mar. —— Carder of Boston (referred to above).
5. Samuel,[3] b. August 31st, 1682, mar. Elizabeth Fuller in 1704.
6. Joseph,[3] b. February 2nd, 1684, d. 1702.
7. John,[3] b. September 4th, 1685, d. 1735, mar. Sarah Hisket, 1707.
8. Obadiah,[3] b. March 5th, 1687.
9. Experience,[3] b. August 19th, 1688, mar. May 11th, 1726, Joseph Davis.
10. Ebenezer,[3] b. December 23rd, 1689.
11. Lydia,[3] b. February 21st, 1691.
12. Temperance,[3] b. April 8th, 1695.
13. "John"[3] (probably Johanna), "a daughter," b. April 23rd, 1697.

.....

5. Samuel Willis[3] (son of Experience and Elizabeth) married in 1704 Elizabeth Fuller. In 1720, with his brother John, he sold for £250 a house in Merchant's Row to Thomas Clark. In 1730 he mortgaged a house in Milk Street for £150.

Children of Samuel Willis[3] by wife Elizabeth Fuller are:

1. Joseph,[4] b. November 26th, 1705, mar. Mary Goodwin in 1730.
2. Samuel,[4] b. April 2nd, 1708, mar. Elizabeth Hilton in 1732.
3. Thomas,[4] b. August 15th, 1710.
4. Elizabeth,[4] b. February 9th, 1712, d. 1713.
5. Elizabeth,[4] b. July 8th, 1716.
6. William,[4] b. August 4th, 1718.

.....

7. John Willis[3] (son of Experience and Elizabeth) settled in Boston and was interested in ships. He died there in 1735, and his widow Sarah was appointed to administer his estate, September 25th, 1735.

Child of John Willis by wife Sarah Hisket was:

1. Sarah,[4] b. November 14th, 1708.

## MICHAEL WILLIS II.

MICHAEL WILLIS,[2] mentioned in Boston Records under "Births," page 37, thus: "Michael, of Michael and Millered Willis, born November 11th, 1652." In "Selectmen's Records," page 15, he is recorded as inhabitant, August 18th, 1679, and page 111, in a Tax List, 1687, we find: "Michael Willis, 2 Heads, 4 Housings, Mills and Wharves, £0 3*s.* 8*d.*" Also in the same list is given, "Experience Willis, 1 Heads, 4 Housings, Mills, £0 2*s.* 0*d.*"

This Michael married Elizabeth Lowden, who survived him. Among the admissions to the Second Church in Boston, we read: "Elizabeth Wills, March 23rd, 1677." In the East Cambridge Probate Court House there is a will of Richard Lowden, dated August 16th, 1700, in which he mentions among his five daughters one Elizabeth, wife of Michael Willis, to whom he leaves land. Also in the same Court House an inventory of the estate of one John Lowden, dated April 4th, 1678; widow Sarah administers.

Among the Suffolk Deeds in Boston, vol. xxiv., page 129, there is a power of attorney recorded, as given by "Michael Willis *of London*" to John Ellis of Boston, in New England, merchant, to attend to his property and affairs there. This deed is dated June 20th, 1708, and shows that Michael called himself then "*of London.*" It would seem to imply that he had returned to the original home of the family, meaning perhaps to remain there, and leaving his brother-in-law, John Ellis (who married his sister Joana) to attend to his affairs in Boston.

Michael Willis also probably died in London in 1711-12. His estate was appraised at £294 7*s.* 9*d.* in Boston, February 14th, 1711-12, by Samuel Marshall and Henry Bridgham. His widow Elizabeth administered.

In the Boston Court House, vol. xvii., pages 460, 461, there is a letter of administration to Elizabeth, widow of Michael Willis of Boston, deceased, who died intestate, dated May 14th, 1712, and issued by Isaac Addington, Esq., commissioned by Joseph Dudley, Esq. There is an

inventory of his goods and chattels which a *daughter* Elizabeth makes. No one of that name is given among his children, but *daughter* may be a mistake for *wife*, as she administers the estate, and would doubtless attend to the inventory also, or he may have had a child so-called, a record of whom we do not find.

Among the administrations of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in England, is one in "Administrations Art Book, 1711," thus: "On the 5th day of October, 1711, there issued a commission to *Mary* Willis, relict of *Michael* Willis, late of the parish of St. Mary, Whitechapel (London), in the County of Middlesex, to administer the goods, etc. of the said deceased." This date agrees with that of Michael's death, but the widow's name is not correctly given. There might have been a mistake in this, however, particularly as she was probably in America at the time. His son Michael married a *Mary* (Mattox), and is supposed to have died in London also, but as his marriage was in 1716, this cannot refer to him. It may, of course, refer to quite another family, but the coincidence of the dates is curious.

Children of Michael Willis[2] by wife Elizabeth Lowden are:

1. Joseph,[3] b. January 4th, 1680, died young; Boston Records, page 153.
2. Abigail,[3] b. March 12th, 1689 or 2; Boston Records, page 156.
3. Deliverance,[3] b. November 1st, 1684.
4. Obadiah,[3] b. March 5th, 1686, died young; Boston Records, page 172.
5. Hannah,[3] b. June 14th, 1688.
6. Mildred,[3] b. May 7th, 1693.
7. Michael,[3] b. July 11th, 1694, mar. Mary Mattox.
8. Ebenezer,[3] b. April or October 9th or 30th, 1697, d. 1697; Boston Records, page 238.
9. Benjamin,[3] d. 1702.

## MICHAEL WILLIS III.

Michael **Willis**,[5] said to be the only son of his father who survived him, was born, according to the Boston Birth Records, page 216, "Michael, of Michael and Elizabeth Willis, July 11th, 1694." On page 220 of the same book, under the heading "First Church," "Michael Willis, July 15th, 1694," probably the date of his baptism.

In the Registry of Suffolk Deeds, vol. xxx., page 217, there is a particularly interesting one, proving the relationship between these three Michaels, in which this last one grants certain lands to Thomas Clarke. It runs: "To all persons unto whom these presents shall come, *Michael Willis* of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, in New England, mariner, only son and heir of *Michael Willis* late of Boston aforesaid, deceased, who was the son of *Michael Willis*, formerly of the same place, also deceased, sendeth greeting." Later he says: "Do give, grant, etc., a certain piece or parcel of land with the dwelling-house thereon, in the possession of Elizabeth Willis [Probably his mother.—P. W.], situate in Boston. Butted and bounded . . . easterly upon land of the heirs of Experience Willis, deceased. [This last Experience doubtless his uncle.—P. W.] All which premises is the western half of the dwelling-house, etc., formerly belonging to Michael Willis, grandfather to the said Michael Willis, party to these presents, who died seized thereof in Fee, and by his last will and testament bearing date June 21st, 1669 (among other things), willed that after his wife's decease his two sons Experience and Michael Willis should enjoy the said dwelling-house, etc., to them and their male heirs, etc. By virtue of which will, the testator's sons Experience and Michael Willis entered upon the premises after their mother's decease, and made partition or division thereof between them, and the westerly part hereby granted was divided and set off to the said Michael Willis, who held and peaceably enjoyed the same during his natural life, and upon his decease the same belonged and descended to me, the said Michael Willis, being the male heir and only child of my said father, pursuant to my grandfather's will."

By speaking of himself as the only child he may mean the only son who survived, as this property was to descend in the male line. Both Abner Morse and James Savage give the children before-mentioned as his father's.

This Michael Willis's marriage is recorded in the Boston Records, page 67: "Michael Willis and Mary Mattox married by Rev. Mr. Benjamin Wadsworth, December 6th, 1716." There is a record of admission as member of the Second Church of one Mary Mattox, February 12th, 1715-16, Increase and Cotton Mather being pastors.

Michael[3] is said to have died in London (Morse), having gone there to settle his father's estate. No date of the death is given. His only child recorded in Boston was:

1. Benjamin,[4] b. September 1st, 1717, d. 1745, mar. Ann Gammell.

## BENJAMIN WILLIS AND ANN GAMMELL.

In the Boston Birth Records, page 125, we find: "Benjamin,[4] son of Michael Willis and Mary his wife, September 1st, 1717." Three things we are told about him: that he was Town Clerk at Medford, that he married Ann Gammell of that town, and lastly, that he was killed at the Siege of Louisburg, 1745.

Mr. W. H. Whitmore in his "Medford Genealogies" mentions these facts, but he does not say where he gets his authority for the marriage. It is not recorded in Medford, as the only mention of the name of Gammell in that Town Hall is this: "William Gammell of Boston and Anna Page of Medford were married December 29th, 1748."

Of the Gammell family very little is known, as will be seen in Note 1, page 99. Abner Morse says that the parents of Benjamin Willis had no more children recorded in Boston. No other names, or of his aunts (who probably died young), can be found later. In right of his mother he was entitled to baptism, but this does not appear on the full records of the Second Church.

The mother may have died soon after his birth, and perhaps there was no one to offer him. His father, if not then absent, might have left about that time for London and never returned.

Can it be that the child was then taken care of by relations in Medford (descendants of George Willis)? This would appear natural, and also that he *might* have married Ann Gammell of that town later.

He may have been Town Clerk as well, and curiously we find that the handwriting in the book of records at Medford for several years before 1745 suddenly changes in that year, and another hand continues the entries.

Mr. Morse says that in 1745 Benjamin Willis and his cousin John joined the expedition to Cape Breton, and perished at the Siege of Louisburg. Unfortunately, the roll-call of those who took part in that campaign is no longer in America. It was sent to England at the time to show the names of all who were killed, and thus to obtain pensions or

some compensation for their relations. This list was never returned from the then Mother Country, therefore nothing can be proved about those who are thought to have died there.* We have, however, the tradition in the family that an ancestor of ours was killed in that siege, and Stephen Phillips' remembrance of what his grandmother said to him on the subject, referred to on page 4.

In Medford there was at that period a deacon Benjamin Willis, son of Stephen and Susanna Willis, whose wife was Ruth Bradshaw. This we know from various deeds at the East Cambridge Court House. He kept a diary for some years, which is now preserved in the Town Clerk's office at Medford; but it goes on beyond the date of the Louisburg battle, showing that he was not killed then. *He may* have been the Clerk, and *retired* at that time, 1745. The similarity of names is confusing.

In the new Court House, Boston, there is a letter of administration to Ann Willis, widow of *Benjamin Willis*, to administer his estate, as he died intestate, and an inventory is given of his possessions in another volume there and valued at £87 14*s*. These deeds are dated 1746, also a letter signed Edward Hutchinson. William Willis in his Manuscripts refers to this ancestor thus: "Benjamin Willis my great grandfather died the latter part of 1745 or beginning of 1746. It is said that he was a Lieutenant in the army and was killed at Norrisburg. [Louisburg probably meant.—P. W.] Administration was taken out in Suffolk by his widow Ann, April 29th, 1746. He is there styled *of Boston*. He had but one son who arrived at maturity, and that was Benjamin my grandfather, who was born in Boston in 1743. Ann his wife was Gammell; her father came from the West of England and settled in Medford. She died at Haverhill, March 14th, 1780, having been twice married subsequent to the death of my great-grandfather, first to Bowker, a mariner of Boston, and after his death to Knowlton, also a mariner." Also "she had a nephew John, living in Boston in 1827, aged seventy-six."

No record of Ann's death is to be found at Haverhill. William Willis must have had some authority for this assertion, however.

Child of Benjamin Willis[4] by wife Ann Gammell was:

1. Benjamin,[5] b. January 10th, 1743, d. November 11th, 1811, mar. Mary Ball.

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* The Secretary of the War Office in London, replying to an inquiry about this siege says: "There are no records of the Siege of Louisburg among the documents of either this Office or the Colonial Office preserved at the Public Record Office."—September 3rd, 1906.

# CHAPTER II.

## CAPTAIN BENJAMIN WILLIS AND MARY BALL.

## CAPTAIN BENJAMIN WILLIS AND MARY BALL.

### FIRST AUTHENTIC GENERATION.

In the Boston Record Commissions for Births we find this, page 251: "Benjamin,[1] son of Benjamin Willis and Ann his wife, January 10th, 1743." The Records of the church in Brattle ~~Square~~ Street, Boston, give the baptism of Benjamin, son of Benjamin Willis, January 15th, 1744. (Record number 2,406). He is said to have been an only child.

This Benjamin was a merchant and sea captain, and lived at Charlestown, later at Haverhill. In the Willis Manuscripts, Book U, William Willis writes: "My grandfather went to sea and followed the West India trade, in which he had the command of a vessel. He was absent on a voyage to Surinam when the Revolutionary War broke out; he arrived not long after the battle of Bunker's Hill, and found his family had been driven from Charlestown and taken refuge at Lexington, where he found them, and removed them to Haverhill.

"He went to sea again in 1780, when he was captured and carried to Gustatia, on which he was released on his parole."

In 1765 he married Mary Ball of Charlestown, daughter of Captain Robert Ball and Elizabeth Davidson Ball (see Note 2, page 100). She was born September 16th, 1742, at Concord, Mass. The Charlestown Records in the old Court House, Boston, give, page 493: "Benjamin Willis of Boston and Mary Ball of this town were joined in marriage by the Rev. Mr. Tho. Prentice, October 3rd, 1765." She had a sister married to John Stanton.

There is a story in the family, well authenticated also, that Mrs. Willis fled with her children (only two at the time) from the flames of Charlestown, when the battle took place, her son Benjamin carrying the family papers in a small box. Some time after, little Benjamin ran in to his mother's home one day, and said that a tall man was asking down at the ferry where she lived. This was her husband, and it is related as happening at Haverhill, though William Willis says she settled first at Lexington.

Captain Willis was a member of the Legislature of Massachusetts from Haverhill for 1799 and 1800, and admitted in 1780 a member of the Fire Society there. He was largely engaged in shipping. William Willis says that he was intimate with the Halls of Medford, who visited at his home.

The old Willis homestead in Haverhill stood on Merrimack Street, near Fleet Street. All trace has long since gone, and the site is now covered with brick blocks. Here the family lived from the close of the Revolution until they moved to Portland in 1803. Benjamin Willis and his wife probably both died at this old house.

In Chase's "History of Haverhill," page 532, we read that Robert Willis son of Captain Willis remembered being in the shop of Enoch Marsh in 1794, when he was making a pair of shoes for his father, then in command of the brig "Betsey." A layer of gold pieces was laid between the soles, a necessary precaution, as the brig was captured on its next voyage. In the same history, page 453, there is another note about Robert Willis remembering in September, 1792, that he and his brother were taken by their mother to Boston to be "inoculated with the smallpox." They crossed the ferry in Haverhill just as the sun was rising, and when the coach crossed the bridge at Charlestown the lamps were already lighted in the evening, thus making the journey in about twelve hours.

The death of Benjamin Willis was on November 11th, 1811, at Haverhill, and he was buried there in the Old Pentucket Cemetery. On his grave is this epitaph: "Sacred to the memory of Benjamin Willis, Esq., who died on the 11th of November, æt. 68. Heaven gives us friends to bless the present scene. Resumes them to prepare us for the next." He died intestate, and at the Probate Court House in Salem, Mass., there is a long inventory of his estate and possessions, also a note signed by his wife Mary Willis, in which she requests that her son Robert shall be appointed to administer his father's estate, as it is "inconvenient" for her to do so.

Mary Willis died July 25th, 1835, aged 93, at Haverhill, and is buried there beside her husband. On her grave is this: "In memory of Mary, relict of Benjamin Willis, obt. July 25th, 1835, in the 94th year of her age." A good woman, who towards the end of her life became helpless and infirm. Her great-grandson Hamilton Willis remembered her, and would tell of his visits to her in his young days, and of her saying: "Nancy, give the boy a pickle!" He was sixteen at the time of her death, and wrote a letter to his sister Elizabeth (who became

Mrs. Wells) telling of the event. This will be found on page 191. Also on page 141 will be found an interesting letter from William Willis to his grandmother, written from Portland, in which he recalls the early life at Haverhill.

Children of Benjamin Willis[1] by wife Mary Ball are:

1. Benjamin,[2] b. March 5th, 1768, d. October 1st, 1853, mar. Mary McKinstry.
2. Mary,[2] b. December 13th, 1774, d. October 23rd, 1825, mar. Peter Osgood.
3. Ann,[2] b. August 24th, 1778, d. March 1st, 1844, mar. Dr. Aaron Kinsman.
4. Elizabeth Ball,[2] b. June 27th, 1782, d. January 31st, 1862, mar. James How.
5. Robert Ball,[2] b. March 13th or 15th, 1784, d. 1875, mar. Eliza Atwood.

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## Summary of Descendants.

### I.

The account of Benjamin,[2] who married Mary McKinstry, will be given in Chapter III.

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### II.—MARY WILLIS OSGOOD.

Mary,[2] born in Charlestown, Mass., daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Ball) Willis, was married on July 13th, 1796, to Peter Osgood of Haverhill, Mass. She died there on October 23rd, 1825, and is buried in the Pentucket Cemetery, where are also several other Osgood graves. Their home was on Main Street, in Haverhill, below the "Eagle" hotel, and there the family all lived and died.

Their children were:

1. Mary Willis Osgood,[3] b. 1797.
2. Abigail Bailey Osgood,[3] b. March 30th, 1798, mar. Moses Nichols.
3. Isaac Osgood,[3] b. October 31st, 1799.
4. Caroline Osgood,[3] b. March 22nd, 1801.
5. Anna Osgood,[3] b. November 3rd, 1802.
6. Harriet Osgood,[3] b. August 13th, 1804.

All these are in the Haverhill City Hall Records.

2. Abigail Bailey Osgood,[3] who married Moses Nichols on November 11th, 1824, had :

1. Charles Augustus Nichols,[4] b. January 5th, 1826, mar. Isabelle Smith, a daughter of Governor Smith of Rhode Island, and had three daughters and one son. Lived in Providence.
2. William Osgood Nichols,[4] b. December 2nd, 1827.
3. Francis Brown Nichols,[4] b. December 19th, 1829, mar. Frances Durgea of Brooklyn. Lived in Englewood, New Jersey. Had two daughters, Abba and ——.
4. George Henry Nichols,[4] b. January 16th, 1832, mar. —— Nichols of Amesbury. Had two sons, Charles[5] and Moses,[5] the former an Episcopal minister. George H. Nichols lived and died in Haverhill.
5. James Nichols,[4] mar. Eliza Marsh of Staten Island, and had four sons and one daughter, who died in infancy. The sons were Nathanial,[5] Francis,[5] Melville,[5] and Harold.[5]
6. Walter Nichols,[4] lived in Haverhill North Parish. Had no children.

7 and 8. Two sons,[4] who died in infancy.

## III.—ANN WILLIS KINSMAN.

Ann,[2] born in Haverhill, daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Ball) Willis, was married on June 14th, 1802 (Haverhill Records), to Dr. Aaron Kinsman of Portland, Maine, as his second wife. Dr. Kinsman was born in Ipswich, Mass., baptized October 12th, 1766, and died in Portland May 11th, 1808 (see Note 4). He graduated at Dartmouth 1787, and was the first professor of the "Phi Beta Kappa" Society there. He studied medicine with Dr. Brooks, and practised in Portland. Ann Kinsman's will is dated Groton, Mass., April 28th, 1837, and proved in 1844 (Essex Probate Records, 130, 141). On her monument in the Pentucket Cemetery at Haverhill, where she is buried, are these words after the name and dates :

"In Christ complete I shine,
His life, His death, are mine."

Their children were :

1. Henry Willis Kinsman,[3] b. March 6th, 1802, d. December 5th, 1859, mar. first Elizabeth Willis, second Martha F. Titcomb.
2. Benjamin Kinsman,[3] b. January 14th, 1806, d. May 15th, 1832.
3. Anne Kinsman,[3] b. August 2nd, 1808, d. May 12th, 1834, mar. Rev. Dudley Phelps.

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1. Henry Willis Kinsman,[3] born in Portland, Maine, was married at Newburyport October 1st, 1828, to his first cousin, Elizabeth Willis.* She was born in Portland October 25th, 1807, and died in Newburyport May 1st, 1856. He graduated at Dartmouth College, 1822, studied law with Daniel Webster, and was afterwards his partner in Boston, before removing to Newburyport in 1836. He represented Boston in the Legislature in 1833, 1834, 1835 ; Newburyport he represented in 1839, 1849, 1854. He was a State Senator and Collector of Customs in Newburyport 1841 to '45 and 1849 to '53. He died in Newburyport, having

* Daughter of Benjamin Willis and Mary (McKinstry) Willis.

married, after the death of his wife, Martha Frothingham Titcomb, a daughter of John Titcomb, on October 5th, 1858. She was about twenty years old and survived him, marrying after his death Francis Lyman Windship, and lived in Allston.

His only children and by his first wife were:

1. Henry W. Kinsman,[4] b. July 29th, 1829, d. July 9th, 1847, in Newburyport, unmarried.
2. Elizabeth Ann Kinsman,[4] b. January 20th, 1831, d. December 11th, 1844, in Newburyport.
3. Benjamin Willis Kinsman,[4] b. January 8th, 1833, grad. at Brown, 1852, d. November 26th, 1855, in Paris, while studying medicine, unmarried.
4. George Edward Kinsman,[4] b. January 27th, 1835, d. in infancy.
5. Clara Crowningshield Kinsman,[4] b. November 24th, 1837, d. June 9th, 1866, mar. Gamalial Bradford.
6. Mary McKinstry Kinsman,[4] b. March 10th, 1839, d. November 2nd, 1867, mar. William Garland Howe.
7. George Edward Kinsman,[4] b. April 12th, 1841, d. September 4th, 1841.
8. Anna Kinsman,[4] b. February 26th, 1843, Newburyport, d. January 23rd, 1846, Newburyport
9. Edwin Kinsman,[4] b. February 11th, 1845, Newburyport, d. May 1st, 1845, Newburyport.
10. Robert Duncan Kinsman,[4] b. January 20th, 1846, Newburyport, d. May 1st, 1856, Newburyport.
11. Louisa Hamilton Kinsman,[4] b. November 12th, 1849, Newburyport, d. September 10th, 1870, Haverhill.

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5. Clara Crowningshield Kinsman,[4] born in Temple Street, Boston, married October 30th, 1861, in Newburyport, Gamalial Bradford of Boston. He was born January 15th, 1831, on Essex Street, Boston. Graduated at Harvard in 1849. They had:

1. Gamalial Bradford,[5] b. in Boston October 9th, 1863, mar. Helen Hubbard Ford.
2. Charles Kinsman Bradford,[5] b. in Boston March 26th, 1866, d. July 24th, 1875, at Wellesley Hills.

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1. Gamalial Bradford,[5] born in Allston Street, Boston, married Helen Hubbard Ford at Wellesley Hills on October 30th, 1886. She was born May 11th, 1865, in Cincinnati, Ohio. They had:

1. Gamalial Bradford,[6] b. June 18th, 1888, in Cambridge, Mass.
2. Sarah Rice Bradford,[6] b. July 1st, 1892, at Wellesley Hills.

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6. Mary McKinstry Kinsman[4] married, July 28th, 1862, William Garland Howe of Haverhill, at North Conway. He was born June 29th, 1826, and died June 8th, 1898. They had:

1. Sarah Saltonstall Howe,[5] b. July 8th, 1863, d. October 25th, 1868.
2. Henry Kinsman Howe,[5] b. April 15th, 1865, d. November 15th, 1868.
3. Gurdon Saltonstall Howe,[5] b. November 30th, 1866, mar. Maria de los Dolores Magdalen Cenas de Rivas.

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3. Gurdon Saltonstall Howe[5] was born in Boston, graduated from Harvard in 1889, and from the Law School in 1892. His wife was born in New York, July 21st, 1871. She was a daughter of Ramon de Rivas and Concepcion de Rivas, who were second cousins, both born in Cuba. They were married in New York, April 30th, 1896, and had:

1. Maria de los Dolores Ramon Howe,[6] b. September 30th, 1897, in Haverhill.
2. Florencia Cenas Howe,[6] b. June 25th, 1901, d. December 25th, 1901, in Haverhill.
3. Gurdon Saltonstall Howe,[6] b. August 16th, 1903, in Haverhill.

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2. Benjamin Kinsman,[3] son of Dr. Aaron and Ann (Willis) Kinsman, was born in Portland and died at Arkansas. In the Pentucket Cemetery at Haverhill there is a monument to him, with these words on the inscription: "Lieut. Benjamin W. Kinsman, of the United States Army, son of the late Dr. Aaron Kinsman, born January 14th, 1806, at Portland, Maine, died May 15th, 1832, at Cantonement Gibson, in Arkansas. He was educated at the Military Academy, West Point, and here he graduated in 1828, immediately afterwards entered the Army. Generous, affectionate, intelligent and enterprising, all who

knew him loved him and mourned his early death. His precious ashes repose among strangers. His more precious memory is the consolation of his friends."

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3. Ann Kinsman,[3] daughter of Dr. Aaron and Ann (Willis) Kinsman, was born in Portland, and married Rev. Dudley Phelps. He was born at Hebron, Conn., graduated at Yale in 1824 and at Andover Seminary in 1827, and died at Groton, September 24th, 1849. His wife is buried in the Pentucket Cemetery, and the inscription for her is this: "Gentle, discreet, benevolent, pious, she sustained all the stations of life with peculiar loveliness. And in the most endearing manner her meek, consistent course of duty and usefulness on earth was an early preparation for Heaven." They had one child:

1. Benjamin Kinsman Phelps,[4] b. September 16th, 1832, in Haverhill. Graduated at Yale in 1853. He was a lawyer. Married Hannah Maria Catlin. They had:

1. Mary Catlin Phelps,[5] b. October 11th, 1858, unmarried. Lives in New York.
2. Dudley Farley Phelps,[5] b. October 7th, 1861. Lawyer in New York.
3. Anna Phelps,[5] b. March 9th, 1865, mar. Dr. Merrill (no children).

## IV.—ELIZABETH BALL WILLIS HOW.

Elizabeth Ball,[2] daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Ball) Willis, was born in Haverhill, and married March 24th, 1814, James How, a merchant of Boston, formerly of Haverhill (Records there). He was born May 11th, 1787, and died in Boston May 12th, 1832. He and his wife were buried in the Pentucket Cemetery, and on her grave is this: "He giveth His beloved sleep." They had:

1. Elizabeth Willis How,[3] b. February 20th, 1815, d. August 19th, 1818. She is buried in the Pentucket Cemetery, and this is the inscription:

> "A lovely blossom here doth lie,
> Death cut life's brittle thread.
> This precious dust shall rise again
> With the surrounding dead."

2. Mary Fisher How,[3] b. June 11th, 1816, d. December 2nd, 1896, mar. Henry Waldron.
3. James How,[3] b. June 30th, 1818, d. February 28th, 1888, mar. Celestine Wells.
4. Benjamin Willis How,[3] b. November 10th, 1821, d. September 18th, 189—, mar. Jane Horton Stringham.

These in Haverhill Records:

5. Calvin Fisher How,[3] b. June 21st, 1823, d. May 4th, 1887, mar. Eliza A. Litchfield.

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2. Mary Fisher How[3] was born in Haverhill and died at Plainfield, N.J. She was married in Boston on June 15th, 1836, to Henry Waldron, who was born at Portsmouth, N.H., on September 18th, 1807, and died at Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 10th, 1876. They had:

1. Mary Elizabeth Waldron,[4] b. April 24th, 1837, in N.Y., d. May 25th, 1881.
2. Isaac Waldron,[4] b. August 7th, 1839, in Boston, d. ——, in N.Y.

3. Henry Waldron,[4] b. October 29th, 1841, in Boston, d. November 5th, 1901, in N.Y.
4. Sarah Grace Waldron,[4] b. July 2, 1844, mar. William De Witt Miller.
5. James How Waldron,[4] b. October 20th, 1846, at Hopkinton, Mass., d. 1894, at Brooklyn, N.Y.
6. Richard Wallis Waldron,[4] b. January 31st, 1851, at Brooklyn, d. December 11th, 1900, in N.Y.
7. George Bethune Waldron,[4] b. September 23rd, 1856, at Brooklyn.
8. Mary Fisher Waldron,[4] b. ——.
9. Annie Kip,[4] b. ——.

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4. Sarah Grace Waldron[4] was born at Hopkinton, Mass., and married at Brooklyn, N.Y., on January 17th, 1872, to William De Witt Miller, who was born at Tompkinsville, Staten Island, on May 2nd, 1835. They had:

1. Charles Huntington Miller,[5] b. July 29th, 1873, at Brooklyn, d. ——.
2. Mary How Miller,[5] b. Jan. 25th, 1875, at Brooklyn, d. Dec. 21st, 1904, at Ningpo, China, mar. Rev. Harrison King Wright, May 31st, 1902 (no children).
3. Anne Kip Miller,[5] b. October 23rd, 1876, at Brooklyn.
4. Waldron De Witt Miller,[5] b. February 4th, 1879, at Brooklyn.
5. Emma Harper Miller,[5] b. September 13th, 1880, at Plainfield, N.J.
6. Grace Theodora Miller,[5] b. May 31st, 1886, at Plainfield.

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3. James How,[3] married Celestine Wells in New York, who was born September 27th, 1821, and died December 31st, 1904. They had:

1. James How,[4] b. May 11th, 1840, d. April 24th, 1869, Brooklyn, mar. Julia Adams.
2. Celestine Wells How,[4] b. July 4th, 1842, unmarried.
3. Richard Willis How,[4] b. May 9th, 1844, mar. Mary Brownson.
4. Mary Elizabeth How,[4] b. September 27th, 1846, unmarried.
5. John Laidlaw How,[4] b. ——, 1848, mar. Sarah Brownson.
6. Susan Wells How,[4] b. December 24th, 1853, unmarried.
7. Anne Kinsman How,[4] b. September 22nd, 1851, mar. Thomas Bowring, October 27th, 1877 (no children).
8. Sarah Kent How,[4] b. May 21st, 1857, unmarried.
9. Charles How,[4] b. March 2nd, 1861, d. April 17th, 1903.

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1. James How,[4] who married Julia Adams of Litchfield, Conn., May 13th, 1863. She died December, 1904. They had:

1. James How,[5] b. July 16th, 1864, d. in the Phillipines, unmarried.
2. Charles How,[5] b. July 22nd, 1866, mar. Amy Gelason.
3. Julia How,[5] b. January 7th, 1869, d. January 25th, 1869.

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3. Richard Willis How,[4] who married Mary Brownson June 1st, 1871, had:

1. Mary Brownson How,[5] b. June 20th, 1873, d. September 28th, 1883.
2. Richard Willis How,[5] b. September 3rd, 1874.
3. Josephine Wells How,[5] b. June 18th, 1876.
4. Celestine How,[5] b. July 15th, 1878.
5. John Brownson How,[5] b. September 8th, 1881.
6. Kenneth G. R. How,[5] b. June 8th, 1883.

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5. John Laidlaw How,[4] who married Sarah Brownson June 9th, 1870, had:

1. Sarah Louisa How,[5] b. June 24th, 1871, Oyster Bay, d. May 23rd, 1892, Hartford, Conn.
2. Celestine How,[5] b. November 30th, 1872, Brooklyn, N.Y., d. August 14th, 1873, Oyster Bay.
3. John How,[5] b. May 11th, 1873, Brooklyn, d. October 23rd, 1876, Brooklyn.
4. James How,[5] b. September 21st, 1876, Brooklyn, mar. ——.

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4. Benjamin Willis How,[3] who married Jane Horton Stringham, a daughter of Admiral Stringham, had:

1. Jane Stringham How,[4] b. February 21st, 1850, mar. J. Ten Eyck Litchfield.
2. Elizabeth Willis How,[4] b. February 10th, 1852, d. ——, 1896.
3. Silas Stringham How,[4] b. August 6th, 1855, d. September 21st, 1870.

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1. Jane Stringham How,[4] who married J. Ten Eyck Litchfield, had five children.

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5. Calvin Fisher How,[3] who married Eliza A. Litchfield, had:

1. Elizabeth L. How,[4] b. August 26th, 1852, mar. Frank Pulford.
2. Calvin Fisher How,[4] b. ——, mar. Calla N. Wright.
3. Lucy How,[4] b. ——.
4. Dawes How,[4] b. ——.
5. Elisha L. How,[4] b. ——.
6. Benjamin Willis How,[4] b. ——.
7. Robert S. How,[4] b. ——, died young.

## V.—ROBERT BALL WILLIS.

Robert Ball,[2] son of Benjamin and Mary (Ball) Willis, was born in Haverhill, and married, October 16th, 1815, Eliza Atwood (Haverhill Records). He died at Haverhill, and is buried either in the old or new cemetery. They lived on the site of the present High School, facing the common at Haverhill. He was a merchant, and in the Boston Directory for 1835 we find his address given at 17, Sudbury Street, in 1816 at Washington Place, and in 1839 at 31, Common. There is a letter of Robert Willis's to be found in Note 2, page 102. They had one child:

1. Harriet Willis,[3] b. ——, mar. George Warren. They had a son:

George Warren.[4] This line is now extinct.

# CHAPTER III.

## BENJAMIN WILLIS AND MARY McKINSTRY.

# BENJAMIN WILLIS AND MARY McKINSTRY.

## SECOND GENERATION.

BENJAMIN WILLIS[2] was born at Charlestown, Mass. In the Birth Records of that town, page 328, at the old Court House, Boston, we find: "Benjamin, son of Benjamin and Mary Willys, was born March 5th, 1768," and was baptized on March 6th.

We have already read in the previous chapter of his flying from the burning ruins of his home in Charlestown after the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775, when he was only seven years old, with his mother and baby sister Mary, while his father was away at sea.

He lived after that in Haverhill and probably attended as a boy the village school. While still a young man he went to London on one of his father's vessels, the brig "Benjamin and Nancy," and met there Mr. John Dickinson, a large merchant, who assisted him in his pursuits.

Mr. Willis was one of the most important merchants in his State. His cargoes came usually to Newburyport in brigs, and were then transported to his own home at Haverhill in boats. In 1811 he built the Willis block just east of the bridge, the first brick block in the town. He was admitted in 1794 to the Fire Society. In 1801 with four others he was a petitioner to found an aqueduct, which was eventually done. When Benjamin Willis was twenty-three years old he married Mary McKinstry (see note 3, page 104) on January 9th, 1791, at Governor Stark's place in Dunbarton, New Hampshire. A record of this marriage is to be found at Haverhill. She was born at Taunton, Mass., on Friday, August 17th, 1770, and was the third daughter of Dr. William McKinstry and Priscilla Leonard (see note 3, page 105).

Mary McKinstry was five years old when the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought on June 17th, 1775. On that day a dinner took place at her father's house in Boston, which was on Hanover Street near where the Shawmut House once stood. The dinner was a silent and solemn one, as several officers from the British Army were present. (The

McKinstrys were Tories.) These left hastily to proceed to Charlestown. The children went to the top of the house to see the cannonade. Mary may then have been a distant witness of the flight of her future husband with his mother from the ruins of their home. Her mother Priscilla L. McKinstry died in Haverhill May 26th, 1786, aged 54, and is buried there.

In the June of 1803 Benjamin Willis went with his family to Portland, Maine, where he made his home until 1815, when he moved to Boston and lived on Fort Hill, or rather just at the foot of it. His house was at 118, Purchase Street, as we find in the early Boston Directories. It was at the northerly corner of Purchase and Oliver (then called Belmont) Streets. His grand-daughter Mrs. Stephen H. Phillips has certain recollections of this house. She says: "It was a large square three-storey house, door in middle, and the hall went through to the back. It stood far back from the street and Oliver Street ran up the hill at the west side, the front yard had three terraces and there was a large garden in the rear. The house overlooked the water."

Hamilton Willis remembered that his grandfather was undecided whether to build on Beacon Street or Fort Hill, which at that time were equally desirable situations in Boston.

Benjamin Willis owned a great deal of real estate in Boston and Portland. The property which he left represented a large fortune in those days. It was made in shipping and increased by investments in real estate. His will is given later on in this chapter. He went to Europe in 1792, sailing from New York on the ship "Hercules" April 25th. In 1821 he was in Europe again, and visited among other places St. Petersburg, Berlin, Dresden and Vienna, returning the end of June, 1823, with Rev. William McKinstry (his brother-in-law). He reached Portland July 3rd, 1823. All his family were there then but two children, Henry and Elizabeth.

There is a portrait of him in Haverhill belonging to the Duncan family, and another belonging to his son George Willis's family in Orange, N.J.; also a copy in London owned by Pauline Willis. In his old age he was remembered by his grand-daughter Mrs. Stephen H. Phillips as tall and large, grey hair, not bald, and a florid complexion. Another grand-daughter, Ellen M. Ware, remembered his wearing black velvet shoes even when he went out of doors.

His son Thomas, a boy of fourteen, was drowned in Portland Harbour July 20th, 1814. He went out in a boat after their dinner in the middle of the day, and was brought back dead at three in the afternoon.

Referring to the birth of his youngest brother in April, 1812, William Willis leaves on record this: "On April 14th, 1812, an embargo was laid on all the ports of the United States for ninety days, and was succeeded by a declaration of war against England in June, 1812. After the death of my brother Thomas, which happened July 20th, 1814, this brother takes the name of Thomas Leonard Willis." Possibly he was called merely Leonard before.

Mary wife of Benjamin Willis died at his home in Boston on February 12th, 1847, in the evening. The following letter, written by her son-in-law Henry Kinsman (who married Elizabeth Willis) to James Duncan (who married Mary Willis, another daughter), tells of Mrs. Willis's death. This letter now belongs to Mrs. Stephen H. Phillips:—

"Boston, Feb. 12th, 1847.

"Half-past eight o'clock p.m.

"My dear Sir,

"Mary has arrived only a few moments since, and just in season to see her mother breathe her last, which will probably be in a few moments. She has been sinking all day and cannot continue much longer. I deeply regret that Elizabeth is not here, but I expect her to-morrow morning. Mary has requested me to write you for her. She desired me to say that if you think she had better go home to-morrow night and will come down she will accompany you back.

"In haste,

"Yours truly,

"H. W. Kinsman.

"Hon. Jas. H. Duncan, Haverhill.

"P.S.—Twenty minutes to nine. Mrs. Willis has just gone."

She was a good woman. Her grandson Hamilton Willis remembered and was fond of her. He would tell of her sending soup to those who needed it and in whom she was interested, asking her husband to take it. He leaves the following note regarding her which his daughter Pauline now has: "My grandmother was a most estimable woman. In her youth she was very handsome. She was a religious woman; for many years she communed at the old South Church, Boston. She was fond of reading and choice in the selection of books. The training of her family of eight children was done by her." Her portrait is in possession of her grand-daughter in New York, Mary Willis, and a copy of it in London belonging to Pauline Willis. She is buried in

the Willis tomb in the Eastern Cemetery in Portland, and her husband was also buried there later.

After the death of his wife, Benjamin Willis spent the greater part of the last years of his life with his daughter Mary Duncan in Haverhill. Her home is still standing, and is now the Pentucket Club House, opposite the green or Common. He died there on Saturday, October 1st, 1853.

This notice appeared in a contemporary newspaper. The cutting belongs to Richard Ware of Washington, D.C. :—

"Death of Benjamin Willis, Esq. of Boston.

"We learn that Benjamin Willis, Esq. of Boston died at Haverhill, Mass., on Saturday morning, October 1st, aged 85 years 7 months. Mr. Willis was born in Charlestown, Mass., March 5th, 1768. At the age of seven years, just previous to the attack on Charlestown by the British, his mother being warned of the impending danger, fled from the town with her young family to a place of refuge on the other side of Mystic River. While there, they saw wagons of their dead and wounded countrymen brought from the battlefield on Bunker Hill, and the passage of the troops to and from the scene of action. The family after his father's return settled in Haverhill, where he continued to reside in the pursuit of his mercantile occupation until 1803, when he moved to Portland. Here his business was extensive and profitable; but desiring a larger field of operations at the close of the war of 1815 he established himself in Boston, where he continued to reside until his last sickness, which commenced in July. He twice visited Europe, the first time in 1792 for commercial purposes, and the last time after he had retired from business in 1822 for the pleasure. During his last excursion, he visited every city of importance in England and on the Continent. The deceased has enjoyed remarkable health during his long life, having seldom been confined by sickness a day, until the sudden attack which prostrated him and culminated in his death.

"He was a man of great activity, energy and enterprise, and the success of his business transactions, corresponded with the intelligence and vigour with which he pursued them. His death was calm and peaceful, and he experienced during his whole sickness a consciousness that he should not recover, and an entire confidence in the goodness and resignation to the will of God, Who had preserved him so long through many and varied scenes; through the struggles of poverty in early life,

and the temptations and vicissitudes of maturer years. From his quiet temperament he had enjoyed life to the full, and having exhausted it to the dregs, he was not unwilling to depart from it."

The following is the inventory of his real and personal estate in Boston and elsewhere :—

Real estate, 184,200 dollars.
Personal estate, 241,590 dollars.

| Real estate in Boston— | Dollars. |
|---|---|
| House and land, 65, Atkinson Street ... ... | 3,600 |
| „ „ 69, „ „ ... ... | 5,000 |
| 14, Washington Square ... ... ... ... | 3,500 |
| 3, Hamilton Court ... ... ... ... ... | 2,600 |
| 11, Gridley Street ... ... ... ... ... | 4,000 |
| 13, „ „ ... ... ... ... ... | 3,600 |
| 15, „ „ ... ... ... ... ... | 4,000 |
| 17, „ „ ... ... ... ... ... | 4,000 |
| 19, „ „ ... ... ... ... ... | 4,000 |
| 21, „ „ ... ... ... ... ... | 4,400 |
| 8, Belmont Street ... ... ... ... ... | 3,750 |
| 9, „ „ ... ... ... ... ... | 3,750 |
| Mansion, Purchase Street ... ... ... ... | 9,000 |
| 33, Sheafe Street ... ... ... ... ... | 3,000 |
| 35, „ „ ... ... ... ... ... | 5,500 |
| 37, „ „ ... ... ... ... ... | 4,000 |
| Bake House, East Street ... ... ... ... | 3,600 |
| Vacant lot, Broad Street ... ... ... ... | 4,500 |
| A block of six wooden houses and land, Suffolk Street, Cambridgeport ... ... ... ... | 3,000 |
| House and land in Newburyport ... ... ... | 2,600 |
| Real estate in Maine as per schedule on file ... ... | 102,800 |
| | 184,200 |
| Personal estate— | |
| Bonds, mortgages, promissory notes, stocks, lumber, &c. in Massachusetts and Maine, and cash on hand, as per schedule on file ... ... ... | 241,590 |

His Will, in the Boston Probate Court House.

Know all Men by these Presents that I Benjamin Willis of Boston

County of Suffolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts being of sound mind and memory but knowing the Mortality of the Body do make and ordain this my last will and Testament as follows :

Firstly. To my son Benjamin Willis Junr. his heirs and assigns forever I give and bequeath one seventh Part of all Real Personal and mixed estate belonging to me at my decease not other ways disposed of he to pay to the heirs of my son George Willis four thousand dollars from his portion.

Secondly. To my son William Willis his heirs and assigns forever I give and bequeath one seventh Part of all Real Personal and mixed estates belonging to me at my decease, he has liberty to take the house he now lives in in Free Street Portland with the land meaning only the first purchase from Judge Parker which his deed to me will show for which he must allow five thousand dollars for to the estate, also he has a right to take the lot west of his house on Free Street by paying two thousand dollars into the estate he may take either or both Lots or not on the above conditions.

Thirdly. To the heirs of my son George Willis deceased being eight in number to say George H., Mary M., Caroline H., Charlotte, Ann, Benjamin, Caleb Hall, and Emily Willis, I give and bequeath one seventh part of all the Real Personal and mixed estate belonging to me at my decease equally between them. I also give and bequeath in addition to the above one thousand dollars to Clarasa widow to my son George and to each of her children and my grandchildren by her that are alive at my decease one thousand dollars each, the children's to be Funded Immediately and paid as here stated. I do hereby appoint my son Henry Willis Trustee to receive the same for their support education and establishment in life and each one's Proportion to be paid them when they become of age and if the daughters should Marry before they become of Age the trustee may if he pleases pay them so I leave it at his option should any die before they become of age their Portion to be divided amongst the survivors equally. Each one of the children to contribute equally for the support of their mother, so long as she remains the widow of my son George Willis, the amount separate from the Seventh part being thirteen thousand dollars given to Clarasa M. and Charlotte Willis and their children must be deducted from the Estate before divided into seven Parts.

Fourthly. To my son Henry Willis his heirs and assigns forever I give and bequeath one seventh part of all my Real Personal and Mixed

estates belonging to me at my decease by his paying his sister Mary Duncan Three thousand dollars from the same.

Fifthly. To my daughter Mary Duncan and her Heirs I give and bequeath one Seventh part of all the Real Personal and Mixed Estates belonging to me at my decease.

Sixthly. To my daughter Elizabeth Kinsman and her heirs I give and bequeath one Seventh part of all the Real Personal and Mixed Estates belonging to me at my decease. She has liberty to take a brick house with the land it stands on and the yard annexed in Sheaf Street Boston Ward No. 1 being the same she has had the income of and is the Southerly House in the Block she to allow three thousand dollars to the estate. She has liberty to take it or not as she pleases.

Seventhly. To the heirs of my son Thomas L. Willis deceased being now three in number say Ellen, Emily and Thomas L. Willis I give and bequeath one Seventh part of all the Real Personal and Mixed estate belonging to me at my decease equally between them I also give and bequeath one Thousand dollars to Charlotte the widow of my son Thomas L. Willis and one Thousand dollars to each of the above named children in addition to the seventh part instead of the Illinois estate, the children's to be funded immediately and paid as stated. I do hereby appoint my son Henry Willis Trustee to receive the same for their support education and establishment in life, and each one's proportion to be paid them when they become of age, and if the daughters should marry before the trustee if he pleases may pay them it is at his option if either dies before of age, theirs to be left to the survivors each one of the children at my decease is to pay to their mother one thousand dollars out of their portion left them by me, and each of the children is to contribute equally to the support of their mother as long as she remains the widow of my son Thomas L. Willis.

Either of my children that I am liable for by Endorsements Bonds or any other Liability must be paid from the proportion I bequeath them I likewise will that all the demands of any kind by note or other way, that I shall hold at my decease against any of my children shall be given up and no payment demanded except 2 notes I hold against my son Benj. Willis Jr. dated January 1842 and April 1844 for money let him, all notes checks or obligations that I may have in my possession at my decease against any of my children that are endorsed on any part of them by me in the following words, viz., this must be paid to my estate and signed (Benj. Willis) those will be demanded and must be paid to the estate and I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint my sons

William Willis and Henry Willis to be the executors of this my last will and testament in Witness I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixteenth day of March Eighteen Hundred Fourty Nine. Signed Sealed published and declared in presence of us by testator to be his last will and testament who have subscribed our names as witnesses to the same in presence of each other at Boston.

Samuel Tenney.
George Homer. Benj. Willis. (Seal)
Geo. L. Deblois.

Codicil. Whereas I Benjamin Willis of Boston in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have made and executed my last will and testament in writing bearing date March 16 1849 Now I do declare this Present writing to be a codicil to my said will and direct the same to be thereto annexed and taken as a part thereof I give and bequeath in addition to my former will dated March 16 1849 to the heirs of my son George Willis deceased being now eight in number to say George H., Mary, Caroline, Charlotte, Anne, Benjamin, Emily and Hall Willis all the real estate viz., being a saw and grist mill with lath shingle and bolting &c. they contain houses, stores, and lands, that I may own at my decease, situated in the towns of Munroe and Jackson in the County of Waldo and State of Maine to be divided equally to those of the above who are alive at my decease all the mortgages, Lumber in the stream or manufactured to go into the estate to be divided by all, I also will that all the demands I hold at my decease against my son in law James H. Duncan Esq. Husband to my daughter Mary Willis by notes Mortgages or otherways with the interest due at my decease shall be paid to my daughter Mary Duncan Wife of James H. Duncan as a part of the estate which will fall to her and her heirs for her and their benefit also I do hereby appoint my grandsons George H. Willis and James H. Duncan Junr to be my Executors to my will in addition to my sons William and Henry Willis who is named in my last. Now my Executors are William Henry and George Willis and my Grandson James H. Duncan Junr. Signed Sealed Published and declared by the said Benjamin Willis to the codicil annexed to his Will and Testament in Presence of us who in his Presence and in the Presence of each other and at his request have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses this 27 day of April 1853 at Haverhill.

Jas. H. Carleton.
John Barton. Benj. Willis. (Seal)
Charles White.

Mr. Nathan Gould of Portland, Maine, gives the following details regarding the family while they lived in that city:—

"Benjamin Willis Senr. came to Portland in 1803 and bought a house in High Street, May 22nd, 1804, where perhaps he lived. I do not know which house it was. He bought a house in Free Street, opposite South in 1806, where he lived. This house was one built by Rev. Elijah Kellogg, the father of the author, and bought by Isaac Parker, afterwards Chief Justice of Mass., who made extensive repairs and alterations. Parker moved to Boston and sold to Willis in 1806. He moved to Boston also in 1815, and as Benjamin Junr. was married in 1817 I infer he lived there until 1822. William Willis was married in 1823 and lived there, but in 1842 the house was burned, and William Willis built the house where he died on the same lot in 1870. Benjamin Senr. died in October, 1853, and made a will and gave that property to William Willis. From that I infer the father must have owned the property until his death and William was only a tenant. In 1854 three appraisers made an appraisal of all the property of Benjamin and it was set off to the heirs. The homestead at Free Street was valued at 7,000 dollars. This report covers several pages and is recorded in the Registry of Deeds. Benjamin Junr. and George Willis bought the house in High Street, now the Cumberland Club, in 1827, and the next year altered it into two tenements and George lived in one part. Thomas L. Willis was one of the builders of Park Street block in 1835, and when the houses were sold at auction (by George Willis) 1838, Benjamin Willis Junr. bought No. 10 for 3,000 dollars, but it was then unfinished. I do not think he ever lived there. Thomas L. Willis was living in Park Street block in 1837, and Mrs. Thomas L. Willis lived at No. 58, Pleasant Street 1852-1856. George Willis lived on corner of High and Pleasant in 1823 and was there in 1827, when he moved to the Cumberland Club House. Clarissa Willis, widow, lived at 34, Park Street 1846-1853. Charlotte Willis lived at 17, Free Street and at 58, Pleasant Street in 1850."

Children of Benjamin Willis[2] by his wife Mary McKinstry are:

1. Benjamin,[3] b. November 16th, 1791, d. July 28th, 1870, mar. Eliza Sewall May.
2. William,[3] b. August 31st, 1794, d. February 17th, 1870, mar. Julia Whitman.
3. George,[3] b. June 16th, 1797, d. October 24th, 1844, mar. first Caroline Hunnewell, second Clarissa May Hall.

4. Thomas,[3] b. March 16th, 1800, drowned July 20th, 1814.
5. Henry,[3] b. April 13th, 1802, d. April 4th, 1874, unmar.

All these are in the Haverhill Records.

6. Mary,[3] b. December 14th, 1805, d. May 21st, 1888, mar. James H. Duncan.
7. Elizabeth,[3] b. October 25th, 1807, d. May 3rd, 1856, mar. Henry Kinsman.
8. Thomas Leonard,[3] b. April 4th or 14th, 1812, d. September 13th, 1845, mar. Charlotte E. Hall.

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## Summary of Descendants.

### I.

The account of Benjamin Junr.,[3] who married Eliza Sewall May, will be given in Chapter IV.

## II.—WILLIAM WILLIS.

The following description of William Willis[3] the Historian has been written by his grandson Paul Barron Watson for this book:

William Willis, the second son of Benjamin Willis, was born in Haverhill, Mass., August 31st, 1794, and died in Portland, Me., February 17th, 1870. When nine years of age his father removed to Portland, whence the boy was sent in 1808 to Phillips' Exeter Academy. He entered the sophomore class at Harvard in 1810, where he was graduated in 1813. Among his classmates were Rev. John Braser, Thomas A. Deblois, Charles Folsom and Dr. John Ware. Returning to Portland after his graduation he read law in the office of Prentiss Mellen. In 1815 his father moved to Boston and the young man, whose health was not robust, made a trip in a sailing vessel to Portugal. On his return he continued his law studies in the office of Judge Peter O. Thatcher in Boston, was admitted to the Suffolk bar in 1817, and began the practice of law in Boston. In 1819 Prentiss Mellen having been elected United States Senator, invited young Willis to take charge of his practice in Portland. The invitation was accepted; but the next year, on the separation of Maine from Massachusetts, Mr. Mellen was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine. Willis thereupon opened an office in Portland for himself, and from the start was an active practitioner in the courts. His name appears as counsel in all the early volumes of the Supreme Court Reports, which began in 1821. In the fourth volume of cases argued in 1826 and 1827 he was counsel in no less than six cases. Among his brethren at the bar at that time were Ezekiel Whitman, whose daughter he later married; Thomas A. Deblois, his classmate; Samuel Fessenden, whose son later became Willis's partner; Simon Greenleaf; and Stephen Longfellow, father of the poet. It was a notable company, composed of men whose talents were of a very conspicuous order. Their achievements are described with just appreciation in Willis's "History of the Law, the Courts and the Lawyers of

Maine," but in that work the writer with characteristic modesty does not once mention the name of Willis. In 1835 he formed an association under the names of Willis and Fessenden with William P. Fessenden, the distinguished Senator and Secretary of the Treasury. This partnership continued until 1855. As a lawyer Willis stood high. He was regarded as an exceptionally safe counsellor, and his wise judgment, combined with pleasing manners and a high standard of integrity, brought him a successful practice.

On September 1st, 1823, Willis married Julia daughter of Ezekiel Whitman, then Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine. By her he had nine children, of whom only three reached maturity, and all of whom were survived by both their father and their mother. In 1831 Willis was made Recording Secretary of the Maine Historical Society, and in 1856 its President. In 1831-2 he published The History of Portland in two parts, the first part being printed in the first volume of the Collections of the Maine Historical Society. A second edition was published in 1865. This work is still the standard history of Portland. In 1849 he edited and published The Journals of the Rev. Thomas Smith and the Rev. Samuel Deane, Pastors of the First Church in Portland. In 1863 he published a History of the Law, the Courts and the Lawyers of Maine. In addition to the above he published the following treatises in the Collections of the Maine Historical Society: In vol. ii. (1847), Additional Remarks on an Ancient Settlement on Sheepscot River; and Notice on the Late William Ladd, Esq. In vol. iv. (1855), Introductory Address; The Language of the Abnaquies or Eastern Indians; and Appendix to an Ancient Settlement at Sheepscot. In vol. v. (1857), Introductory Address and Introductory Remarks to a Letter from George Popham to King James I. In vol. vi. (1859), Scotch-Irish Immigrations to Maine; Remarks on Old Coins found at Portland in 1849 and at Richmond's Island in 1855, with a General Notice of Coins and Coinage; The Indians of Hudson Bay and their Language; and Proceedings of the Society for the year 1859, with obituary notices of deceased members. In 1869 he edited Dr. J. G. Kohl's History of the Discovery of Maine, which was published as the first volume of the 2d. series of Collections of the Maine Historical Society.

To the New England Historical and Genealogical Register he contributed the following: In vol. ii. (1848), Old Settlers. In vol. xii.-xiii. (1858-1859), Genealogy of the McKinstry Family, with a Pre-

liminary Essay on the Scotch-Irish Immigrations to America, and Old People. In vol. xiii. (1859), A Catalogue of Original Documents in the English Archives relating to the Early History of Maine. In vol. xv. (1861), A Bibliographical Essay on the Early Collections of Voyages to America. In vol. xxiii. (1869), Summary of Voyages to the Northern Atlantic Coast of America in the Sixteenth Century.

A second edition, much enlarged, of his Genealogy of the McKinstry Family was published separately in 1866.

To the Historical Magazine or American Notes and Queries for January, 1866, he contributed an essay on Titles conferred on Americans; for January, 1868, he contributed a Sketch of the Origin and Progress of the Maine Historical Society; for January, 1870, A Bibliography of the Writers, native and resident, of Maine; and to No. 4 of Norton's Literary Letter, published in New York in 1859, A Bibliography of the State of Maine.

His other writings consist of articles, chiefly obituary notices, published in the Portland newspapers almost continuously during a period of fifty years, from 1820 to 1870. The last of these notices was printed in the Portland Press on February 15th, 1870, two days before the writer's death. It was a notice of Miss Betsey Thomas, who died at the age of 96, and it is so characteristic of the writer that I quote its closing sentences: "While by her presence she added graces to the life that now is, she never forgot that there is another life of higher charms and nobler possessions than any which this can bestow, and which will adorn with new graces and richer beatitudes those who have attained the highest regards of this. She acted upon the fact that most of the shadows that cross our path in life are caused by our standing in our own light. And now as we bid farewell to this time-honoured object of our respect, we must not fail to turn back to the dear and loved companions with whom she has affectionately and tenderly walked through the years of her long life, and whose abrupt parting is the breaking of a heart chord. Your turn must soon come; you cannot choose when; you move mistily through these bright shadows; you did not choose the time to come into the world, you cannot select the time when you will be taken out of it; it is for you to make the most and best of what remains of life by patience and a calm submission to the movements of a Providence which you cannot control and to which you must submit, and prepare yourselves to receive with serenity the uncertain but blessed decree which shall lift from you the pains, the vicissitudes and trials which no man who once entered the world can escape or avoid.

"Let this be the burden of the heart,
The burden that it always bore;
We live to love; we meet to part,
And part to meet on earth no more."

William Willis entered with the deepest earnestness into everything that could contribute to the welfare of the town and state in which he had taken up his abode, and in return his fellow-townsmen honoured him with the highest positions in their control. In 1855 he was elected a State Senator, in 1857 he was Mayor of Portland, and in 1860 he was chosen a presidential elector and chairman of the State Delegation. In politics he was a staunch Republican. He was for many years a director and vice-president of the Merchants' Bank of Portland, president of the Portland Benevolent Society, and founder and president of the Portland Institute and Public Library. He was also at one time Railroad Commissioner, and at another time president of the Maine Central Railroad Company. In 1868 Bowdoin College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws. In religious matters he was a Unitarian and a lifelong and regular worshipper in the first Parish Church. From 1855 to 1859 he was vice-president of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society.

In presenting to the Supreme Court the resolutions of the Cumberland Bar upon his death, ex-Chief Justice Ether Shepley declared: "In his professional intercourse he was kindly-spirited, always free from all vulgarity, deception and false statement, so that he could be relied upon when engaged in trying a case; he was never known to do anything which was either false, deceptive, dishonourable or unsuited to a gentlemanly demeanour." Judge Walton in accepting the resolutions declared: "In common with all his fellow-citizens, and especially in common with the members of this Bar, I can bear testimony to the high esteem in which he has been held by all who knew him, and to the fact that he leaves a reputation pure and unspotted."

The best biographical notice of William Willis was written by his friend, Rev. Alpheus S. Packard of Bowdoin College, and published with portrait in the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register," vol. xxvii., pages 1-8.

The children of William Willis[3] and Julia Whitman Willis are:

1. William Whitman Willis,[4] b. October 28th, 1825, d. August 14th, 1845.
2. Julia Whitman Willis,[4] b. January 21st, 1829, d. June 27th, 1866, mar. Barron Crowell Watson.

3. Henry Willis,[4] b. June 5th, 1831, d. March 16th, 1868, mar. Adeline Fitch.
4. Benjamin Willis,[4] b. February 14th, 1834, d. in infancy.
5. Mary Duncan Willis,[4] b. October 21st, 1835, d. August, 1837.
6. Mary Duncan Willis,[4] b. December 27th, 1838, d. May 30th, 1842.
7. Frederick Willis,[4] b. May 11th, 1843. d. August 5th, 1856.

All these at Portland.

.....

2. Julia Willis,[4] according to the manuscripts of her father, was baptized by Bishop Southgate February 25th, 1852, by the name of Julia Whitman and the next day married by the same and Dr. Nichols to Dr. Barron C. Watson of Wilson, Edgecombe Co., North Carolina. He was born in Germantown, Pa., November 15th, 1824, and educated at the Medical School in Philadelphia. He was the son of the analyst John F. Watson. Dr. Watson died October 30th, 1894, at Marshfield, Mass. Julia Watson died at Newport, R.I., and was buried at Portland in the Evergreen Cemetery. They had:

1. William McKinstry Watson,[5] b. April 21st, 1856, d. 1856.
2. John Fanning Watson,[5] b. 1858, d. 1858.
3. Willis Watson,[5] b. October 11th, 1859, mar. Viola Helen Bartlett.
4. Paul Barron Watson,[5] b. March 25th, 1861, mar. Catherine Hurlburt Clarke.

.....

3. Willis Watson[5] graduated at Harvard in 1881 and from the Harvard Medical School in 1885. He married November 14th, 1881, Viola Helen Bartlett, a daughter of Benjamin Bartlett. She was born January 14th, 1860. They had:

1. Willis Barron Watson,[6] b. August 20th, 1882.
2. George Fanning Watson,[6] b. April 4th, 1884, d. January, 1885.
3. Helen Ruth Watson,[6] b. December 17th, 1887.
4. Barron Crowell Watson,[6] b. December 16th, 1891.

.....

4. Paul Watson[5] graduated from Harvard in 1881, and married on June 4th, 1890, at Trinity Church, Boston, Catherine Hurlburt Clarke, a daughter of Henry Martyn Clarke and Jane Loomer Hurlburt. He is a lawyer practising in Boston. They had:

1. Paul Barron Watson,[6] b. April 19th, 1893, in Boston.
2. Donald Clarke Watson,[6] b. November 4th, 1894, in Milton, Mass.
3. John Whitman Watson,[6] b. June 25th, 1900, in Milton, Mass.

.....

3. Henry Willis,[4] who married Adeline Fitch, a daughter of Luther Fitch in 1855, graduated from Bowdoin College in 1851. They lived on Free Street in Portland, next door to his father. They had :

1. Adelaide Willis,[5] b. October 22nd, 1857, unmar.

## III.—GEORGE WILLIS.

George,[3] son of Benjamin and Mary (McKinstry) Willis, was born in Haverhill. This record is there. When only six years old he went to live in Portland with his parents. He was a merchant and entered into partnership with his brother Benjamin on June 26th, 1815, when their father moved to Boston. His home was on High Street. The house is now the Cumberland Club. Later he lived in Park Street. On April 10th, 1820, he married Caroline E. Hunnewell, who was born July 8th, 1799, at Castine and was a daughter of Colonel Richard Hunnewell. She died September 1st, 1821. There are some verses written for this wedding by William Willis on page 148. He married again on November 11th, 1822, Clarissa May Hall, who was born on June 3rd, 1799, and died April 15th or 17th, 1858. Her father was Caleb Brooks Hall of Bucksport, and her sister was the wife of Thomas Leonard Willis her brother-in-law. George Willis died at Munroe, in Maine, and there is a letter on page 187 telling of his death. He is buried in the Willis tomb in Portland.

There are a great many deeds in the Portland City Hall relating to the Willis family, and in Book A of the William Willis manuscripts there is a letter, No. 265, copied from a deed in Book 272, page 242, regarding certain property in the city, "Being a part of the estate of the late Benjamin Willis of Boston deceased, which was set off to the heirs of George Willis."

George Willis[3] by his wife Caroline Hunnewell had:

1. Caroline Hunnewell Willis,[4] b. February 21st, 1821, d. March 10th, 1821.

By his wife Clarissa May Hall he had:

1. George Hall Willis,[4] b. June 28th, 1825, d. October 14th, 1905, mar. Harriet Hammond.
2. Mary McKinstry Willis,[4] b. April 13th, 1827, mar. George Warren Wyer.

3. Clarissa May Willis,[4] b. November 11th, 1828, d. January 12th, 1840.
4. Caroline Hunnewell Willis,[4] b. July 8th, 1830, d. March 14th, 1905, mar. Frederick Lyman.
5. Charlotte Elizabeth Willis,[4] b. March 13th, 1833, d. February 23rd, 1885, mar. first Llewellyn True, second Gordon Z. Dimmock.
6. Anne Kinsman Willis,[4] b. August 2nd, 1834, mar. Samuel Parris.
7. Benjamin Willis,[4] b. April 14th, 1836, in Portland, d. November 6th, 1878, at Augusta, Maine, unmar.
8. Caleb Hall Willis,[4] b. September 4th, 1837, d. December 28th, 1869, in Washington, buried there, unmar.
9. Emily May Hall Willis,[4] b. July 21st, 1839, in Portland, d. May 3rd, 1860, in Brooklyn, N.Y. She was called "Little Emily," said to have been beautiful and long remembered in Portland where she lived, unmar.

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1. Captain George Hall Willis[4] was born in Portland and went very early to sea in the Merchant Service. About the age of twenty-one he was in command of a ship. On October 13th, 1858, he was married in Portland to Harriet Hammond, a daughter of Thomas Hammond of Portland and Sophia Harris of Boston. After their marriage they made a voyage round Cape Horn to San Francisco in a sailing vessel. The following is an extract from a letter written in 1850 by Mr. M. who was supercargo of the ship "Hannibal," and addressed to the owners regarding Captain Willis: "Of Captain W. there can be but one opinion. In him are combined the accomplishments of a gentleman, and the abilities of a sailing master and seaman, governed by carefulness and prudence. Inspiring all on board with perfect confidence, perfectly calm on all occasions, we have not at any time known of danger. The more intimate the association the more apparent are these accomplishments. Meriting your entire confidence, you will only do him justice by a liberal construction of what I have said."

Captain William G. Shackford, who knew Captain Willis well, gives this expression of his esteem in a journal account which the family now have: "Captain Willis was one of nature's noblest creations. Eminent as a sailor, a natural born gentleman, and a man whose example if followed would make an eminent citizen out of the humblest one. It was such men as Captain Willis that aided in making this port great in earlier years by their intelligent, heroic and successful navigation of the finest and ablest ships in the world to and from foreign ports, carrying

cargoes of export and import of immense value at a time when New York's best merchants were nearly all directly or indirectly interested in shipping, and a ship-master was welcomed on the floor of the Chamber of Commerce as an honoured guest. For in those days a large number of its members had been ship-masters and others ship-owners.

"About the time that Captain Willis left the sea the complexion of things seafaring and sea-going began to change, and it is doubtful if in his twenty-one years of retirement he realised how little attention a ship-master received from the present generation after his ship is made fast to the dock."

George Willis died on October 14th, 1905, quite suddenly. The funeral services were at his home in East Orange, 119, Harrison Street, and he is buried there.

The following is taken from a newspaper published at the time of his death :

"A Representative Citizen.

"Tribute of a Friend to the Memory of the late George H. Willis.

"To the Editor of the 'News.'

"Sir,

"By the death of George H. Willis the community of the Oranges loses one of the very few remaining citizens, representatives of a type which is unfortunately rapidly disappearing from among us. A firm believer in the early New England ideals, he was in his own life and character a consistent and thorough exponent of those ideals in sincerity and singleness of purpose, in freedom from sham and cant, in rugged honesty and independence of view. No man, however, kept more thoroughly in touch with the trend of modern progress, or has had a more intelligent appreciation of what is best in the life of to-day, while deploring those tendencies which exalt material progress at the sacrifice of the best standards of mental and moral development ; his faith in the final triumph of American patriotism and good citizenship was firm and abiding. Always kindly, courteous and helpful, his loss will be keenly felt by a large number, who always found in him a frank and intelligent counsellor, a sympathetic neighbour and friend.

"Mr. Willis was born in Portland, Me., June 28th, 1825. He was the son of George and Clarissa May Hall Willis. As a young man he early became interested in navigation, and when about seventeen years of age made his first sea voyage. In those days the nautical profession was

eagerly embraced in this country by men of high position and attainment. A rise in the ranks was therefore accomplished in the face of the keenest competition, yet young Willis showed such unusual ability that he gained rapid promotion. When hardly of age he found himself a captain in the Merchant Marine Service. At twenty-four years of age he became a captain in the service of the Shippers' Line of San Francisco packets plying between New York and San Francisco. He was placed in command first of the fast clipper the "Ocean Telegraph" and later of the "Ocean Express." This was in the heyday of the Merchant Marine, and each captain exerted every effort to compass the distance between New York and San Francisco in the quickest time. Among these skilful navigators Captain George Willis stood in the foremost ranks, because of his knowledge of navigation and his skill in using the splendid knowledge to practical purpose in the advancement of commerce.

"At thirty-four years of age Mr. Willis retired from the Merchant Service and engaged in business in New York city as a shipbroker. Twenty-one years ago he retired from active business. A lifelong Republican, he was never a narrow partisan, frequently supporting local independent candidates when he believed such action accorded with good citizenship. He was a close student of local and county affairs, of which he had a remarkably clear understanding, and on which his opinions were always sound and progressive. Mr. Willis is survived by a widow, a son Paul Willis, residing in Chicago, and two daughters.

"East Orange.

"October 16th, 1905."

George Henry Willis[4] and Harriet Hammond Willis had:

1. Paul Willis,[5] b. December 21st, 1864, married Daisy Jameson Hubbard.
2. Isabel Willis,[5] b. December 24th, 1866.
3. Kate Willis,[5] b. January 31st, 1869.

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1. Paul Willis[5] graduated from the Stevens' Institute of Technology at Hoboken, N.J., in 1895, and is a civil engineer living in Chicago. He married in Chicago on April 12th, 1899, Daisy Jameson Hubbard, and had:

1. Marion Willis,[6] b. March 1st, 1900.
2. George Hall Willis,[6] b. May 3rd, 1904.

.....

2. Mary McKinstry Willis[4] was born in Portland and married February 20th, 1850, to George Warren Wyer.* They had :

1. William H. Wyer,[5] b. December 5th, 1851.
2. George Hall Wyer,[5] b. April 6th, 1853, d. August 31st, 1905, unmar.

.....

4. Caroline Hunnewell Willis[4] married Frederick Lyman on December 14th, 1854. She lived the greater part of her married life in Orange, New Jersey. They had :

1. Clarissa May Lyman,[5] b. June 16th, 1856, in Boston, mar. John Whiting, October 16th, 1882. No children. He died October 16th, 1893.
2. Caroline Lyman,[5] b. April 4th, 1858, mar. Benjamin Willis Wells.
3. Frederick Lyman,[5] b. April 21st, 1860, d. November 7th, 1861.
4. Francis Lyman,[5] b. November 28th, 1861.
5. Emily Lyman,[5] b. ——, d. ——.
6. Percy Lyman,[5] b. September 27th, 1865, mar. Louise Jeanne Chol.
7. Helen Lyman,[5] b. August 19th, 1867, d. August 10th, 1904, mar. Ellwood Wilson.
8. Alice Lyman,[5] b. June 14th, 1869, mar. William Trent.
9. Willis Lyman,[5] b. September 8th, 1872.
10. Edward Lyman,[5] b. February 11th, 1874.

The last eight were born in Orange, N.J.

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2. Caroline Lyman[5] married Benjamin Willis Wells, her second cousin (see children of Elizabeth Willis Wells, page 76). They were married on July 3rd, 1883. Their children will be given in Chapter IV.

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6. Percy Lyman[5] married Louise Jeanne Chol. She was born April 10th, 1867. They had :

1. Antoinette Lyman,[6] b. October 20th, 1889.
2. Percy Lyman,[6] b. December 1st, 1892.
3. Alfred Louis Lyman,[6] b. August 14th, 1899.
4. Marie Madeleine Lyman,[6] b. February 10th, 1903.

.....

7. Helen Lyman[5] married Ellwood Wilson on April 14th, 1894, at St.

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* She preferred to retain for herself and sons the name of Willis rather than Wyer.

Mark's Church in Orange, N.J. She died at their home at Saranac Lake of consumption. They had:

1. Ellwood Wilson,[6] b. August 29th, 1895, at Germantown, Pa.
2. Caroline Wilson,[6] b. January 23rd, 1898, at Hampstead, London, England.

.....

8. Alice Lyman[5] married William Trent at her home in Orange, N.J., 101, Harrison Street, on December 8th, 1896. They had:

1. Lucia Trent,[6] b. December 19th, 1897.
2. William Peterfield Trent,[6] b. December 30th, 1902.

.....

5. Charlotte Elizabeth Willis,[4] born in Portland and died at Montrose, Pa., married firstly Llewellyn True, and secondly Gordon Z. Dimmock. She had by her first husband:

1. Arthur True,[5] b. in Portland.
2. Mabel True,[5] b. in Portland, died October 8th, 1901.

By her second husband she had:

1. Davis Dimmock,[5] b. December 19th, 1868, in Montrose, Pa., d. February 3rd, 1904.
2. Alice Dimmock,[5] b. November 19th, 1872, in Dundee, N.J.

.....

6. Anne Kinsman Willis[4] married Samuel Parris on June 19th, 1856. He died April 24th, 1900. They had:

1. Albion Keith Parris,[5] b. April 5th, 1857, mar. Bessie Howison.
2. Willis Parris,[5] b. September 11th, 1858, mar. Martha Gavitt.
3. Elsie May Parris,[5] b. November 31st, 1868.

.....

1. Albion Keith Parris[5] married Bessie Howison on March 25th, 1882. She was the daughter of Henry and Juliet Virginia Howison. They had:

1. Albion Keith Parris,[6] b. March 17th, 1883.
2. Edward Howison Parris,[6] b. September 26th, 1884, d. December 19th, 1890.
3. Worden Whitman Parris,[6] b. August 28th, 1886.
4. Andrew Jackson Parris,[6] b. August 11th, 1888, d. January 3rd, 1891.
5. Morris Addison Parris,[6] b. September 26th, 1891.
6. Juliet Howison Parris,[6] b. February 22nd, 1893.

## IV.—THOMAS WILLIS.

Little Thomas Willis,[3] son of Benjamin and Mary (McKinstry) Willis, was drowned at the age of fourteen in Portland Harbour. See account of this on page 42.

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## V.—HENRY WILLIS.

Henry,[3] son of Benjamin and Mary (McKinstry) Willis, was born in Haverhill. He was a merchant and lived with his father in Boston at 118, Purchase Street, according to the Directory in 1835 and 1845. Later he lived in Roxbury, Mass., and died there on April 4th, 1874, at six in the evening. The funeral was on the 8th and he was buried at Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston, near his eldest brother Benjamin. He represented Roxbury in the Massachusetts Legislature in 1858, and was unmarried.

## VI.—MARY WILLIS DUNCAN.

Mary,[3] daughter of Benjamin and Mary (McKinstry) Willis, was born in Portland. She was married to James Henry Duncan on June 28th, 1826, at eleven in the morning by Dr. Francis Parkman. They left for a wedding tour through the mountains in a "barouche," taking with them her sister Elizabeth and Henry Kinsman, who were engaged to each other at the time. James Henry Duncan was born at Haverhill on Thursday, December 5th, 1793, and died there on February 8th, 1868. He was a son of James Duncan, a descendant of the Scotch-Irish stock of Londonderry, who was born on April 22nd, 1756, and died in 1822. He married January 26th, 1790, Rebeckah White, who was born August 10th, 1754, and died in 1838. James Henry Duncan graduated from Harvard in 1812. He twice represented his district in Congress, being a member of the Council and held other important offices. A member of the Legislature of Massachusetts from Haverhill for several years, 1827, 1838, 1839, 1858. Of the State Senate in 1828 to 1831. A member of Congress from 1848 to 1852. Mary Willis Duncan died in Haverhill.

Their children are:

1. Rebeckah White Duncan,[4] b. August 22nd, 1827, d. September 22nd, 1829.
2. James Henry Duncan,[4] b. August 22nd, 1827, d. December 31st, 1858, unmar.

Twins.

3. Benjamin Willis Duncan,[4] b. September 7th, 1829, d. October 22nd, 1830.
4. Rebeckah White Duncan,[4] b. September 13th, 1831, d. July 19th, 1870, at Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, of consumption, unmar.
5. Mary Willis Duncan,[4] b. February 12th, 1834, mar. Robert Harris.
6. George Duncan,[4] b. April 4th, 1835, d. February 17th, 1840.
7. Susan Reynolds Duncan,[4] b. March 8th, 1837, d. February 24th, 1857, unmar.
8. Samuel White Duncan,[4] b. December 19th, 1838, d. October 30th, 1898, mar. Sarah Margaret Fuller Greene.

9. Rosannah Duncan,[4] b. October 7th, 1840, d. June 20th, 1860, at Hudson, N.Y., unmar.
10. Elizabeth Kinsman Duncan,[4] b. December 25th, 1842, d. October 3rd, 1886, mar. Rev. Theodore T. Munger.
11. George Willis Duncan,[4] b. January 3rd, 1845, d. February 24th, 1884, mar. Elizabeth Means Damon.
12. Caroline Duncan,[4] b. October 12th, 1846, unmar.
13. Margaret Duncan,[4] b. December 30th, 1847, mar. Stephen H. Phillips.

All of these children except the first two were born in the large house opposite the Common at Haverhill, where their parents spent almost their entire married life.

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2. James H. Duncan,[4] Junr., graduated from Brown University, and was associated with his father in the management of his large property in Haverhill. His health failing, he went for a voyage to the West Indies and died at sea just before reaching home.

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5. Mary Willis Duncan[4] married Robert Harris, December 1st, 1857, at Haverhill. He was born at Portsmouth, N.H., July 29th, 1830, and died at Rochester, N.Y., on April 21st, 1894, after an illness of a few hours. He was a civil engineer and engaged in railway construction in the West, chiefly in Wisconsin and Texas. In the Civil War he went into the Army and was stationed at Newbern, N.C., for most of his service. He was director of several large railroads. They had no children.

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8. Samuel White Duncan[4] graduated from Brown University in 1860, and studied for the Baptist ministry at the Newton Theological Seminary. When the Civil War broke out he became captain of the Haverhill Company in the 50th Massachusetts Volunteers. This regiment had hard fighting on the lower Mississippi, especially at the siege of Port Hudson. He married at Newport on August 2nd, 1866, Sarah Margaret Fuller Greene, a daughter of Judge Albert Gorton Greene of Providence and Mary Ann Clifford. She was born in Providence April 28th, 1839. Samuel Duncan had an active life in the ministry and died at his home in Brookline, Mass. They had :

1. Albert Greene Duncan,[5] b. December 12th, 1868, mar. Frances Chandler Gilman.

2. James Henry Duncan,[5] b. June 7th, 1871, at Cleveland, Ohio, died April 23rd, 1876, in Cincinatti.
3. Samuel White Duncan,[5] b. February 14th, 1873, in Cleveland, graduated Brown University, 1895.
4. Robert Harris Duncan,[5] b. June 18th, 1875, in Cleveland, d. February 17th, 1892, at Haverhill.
5. Harold Duncan,[5] b. August 23rd, 1876, d. February 2nd, 1878, at Cincinatti.
6. Marion Clifford Duncan,[5] b. April 16th, 1879, mar. Rev. John Moore McGann.

.....

1. Albert Greene Duncan[5] was born at Cleveland. Graduated from Rochester University in 1891. He married February 11th, 1902, Frances Chandler Gilman.

.....

6. Marion Clifford Duncan[5] was born in Cincinatti. She married Rev. John Moore McGann on October 24th, 1901, in Boston, a member of the Episcopal ministry. They had:

1. Duncan McGann,[6] b. August 22nd, 1903, d. May 2nd, 1904, at Milton, Mass.
2. Marion Duncan McGann,[6] b. February 24th, 1906, in Erie, Pa.

.....

10. Elizabeth Kinsman Duncan[4] was married at Haverhill October 12th, 1864, to Rev. Theodore T. Munger. After her death he married Harriet K. Osgood of Salem, Mass. Elizabeth Duncan Munger had:

1. Rosannah May Munger,[5] b. March 16th, 1866, at Haverhill.
2. Eleanor Duncan Munger,[5] b. February 2nd, 1868, mar. Philip Patterson Wells.
3. Paul Munger,[5] b. August 31st, 1876, at Montrose, Pa., and died next day.
4. Mary Willis Munger,[5] b. October 8th, 1877, mar. John C. Adams. (Changed her name to Elizabeth.)
5. Thornton Taft Munger,[5] b. October 3rd, 1883, at North Adams, Mass., graduated at Yale in 1905.

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2. Eleanor Duncan Munger[5] was born at Haverhill. She married Philip Patterson Wells at New Haven, May 22nd, 1893. He was born

February 5th, 1868, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, graduated from Yale in 1889 and studied law. They had:

1. Lewis Gray Wells,[6] b. June 9th, 1896.
2. Elizabeth Wells,[6] b. September 3rd, 1902.

.....

4. Mary Willis Munger[5] was born at Haverhill. Married at New Haven, Connecticut, John C. Adams in April, 1901. He was from Brookline, Mass., and graduated at Yale in 1897. They had:

1. Harriet Elizabeth Adams,[6] b. January 5th, 1903.

.....

11. George Willis Duncan[4] studied at Brown University, and died in Italy at Rome. He married Elizabeth Means Damon of Concord, Mass. They had several children, of whom only two survived infancy:

1. James H. Duncan,[5] b. 1878 in Haverhill, graduated at Brown University 1904, a civil engineer.
2. George McKinstry Duncan,[5] b —— in Haverhill.

.....

13. Margaret Duncan[4] was educated at Abbot Academy, Andover. She married Stephen H. Phillips of Salem, Mass., on October 3rd, 1871. He was born in Salem August 16th, 1823, a son of Stephen C. Phillips and graduated from Harvard in 1842, studied law and became a leading lawyer of Essex County. At one time he was Attorney-General and Minister of Foreign Affairs in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, until the death of Kohomehama V. in 1873. He died in Salem April 8th, 1897. They had:

1. Stephen Willard Phillips,[5] b. January 9th, 1873, in Honolulu, graduated Harvard 1895 and studied law. A member of the Mass. Legislature in 1905 and 1906. Married Anna Pingree Wheatland June 15th, 1899.
2. James Duncan Phillips,[5] b. February 5th, 1876, at San Francisco, graduated Harvard 1897. mar: Mar: 20-1907. at Hudson Hunt. England. Bennie J. Borden.

## VII.—ELIZABETH WILLIS KINSMAN.

Elizabeth,[3] daughter of Benjamin and Mary (McKinstry) Willis, married her first cousin Henry Willis Kinsman, and the account of her descendants is given in Chapter II., page 29.

## VIII.—THOMAS LEONARD WILLIS.

Thomas Leonard,[3] youngest son of Benjamin and Mary (McKinstry) Willis, was born in Portland, and this record is there. He was a merchant in Portland and lived on Park Street. He moved to Illinois in 1839 and tried farming at Greenville, Bond Co., remaining for about seven years. When quite a young man of nineteen he made a voyage to India, going to Calcutta on one of his father's ships. His daughter Ellen Ware* had an interesting journal, or log book, kept by him on this trip. Sailing from Boston on April 18th, 1831, they reached Calcutta after a passage of 130 days. He stayed four months and gives a descrip- of his experiences. Returning to Boston he landed on Monday night, April 30th, 1832, at about ten o'clock, and ends his journal thus: "Went on shore, Father and Mother had retired, Ben however was up to receive me." He married on October 11th, 1832, Charlotte Elizabeth Hall, a daughter of Caleb Brooks Hall of Bucksport, Maine. She was born in 1812. Thomas Leonard died on his way to Boston on the canal boat between Lafayette and Toledo, Ohio, and he was buried at Logan's Port, Indiana. His wife and family who were with him continued their journey to Boston, where they stayed with his father, Benjamin Willis, on Fort Hill; then she went to Portland and was for a time with her sister Clarissa, who had married her husband's brother George. Later she bought a house on Pleasant Street in Portland, and both her daughters were married from there. Charlotte Willis, after the death of her daughter Emily, lived with her son in-law Lewis Pierce and kept house for him until he married again. Then she went to Washington and lived until her death with her other daughter Ellen Ware, and died at her home, 1529, Rhode Island Avenue, on December 29th, 1887. Ellen Ware* had a diary kept by her mother during the first six months of 1847, when she was living in Portland. Thomas Leonard and Charlotte Willis had:

1. Charlotte Hall Willis,[4] b. September 9th, 1833, at Lunenburg, d. September 3rd, 1844, at Greenville.

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* Now in possession of her son Richard Ware.

2. Ellen May Willis,[4] b. June 21st, 1835, mar. Joseph A. Ware, d. August 31st, 1906.
3. Emily Hall Willis,[4] b. June 13th, 1837, d. October 16th, 1864, mar. Lewis Pierce.
4. Josephine Willis,[4] b. September 30th, 1838, in Portland, d. July 4th, 1839, at Greenville.
5. Thomas Leonard Willis,[4] b. November 28th, 1841, at Greenville, d. November 1st, 1869, at Portland, of consumption.
6. A son,[4] not named, died an infant. There is a record in the Portland City Hall under Willis of "Thomas son of Thomas, died of consumption, six months old."

.....

2. Ellen May Willis[4] was born in Portland and married there on September 7th, 1857, Joseph A. Ware, a son of Ashur Ware and Sarah Morgridge. He died in Washington in 1872. She died also in Washington at her own home August 31st, 1906. They had:

1. A son,[5] born in 1859 in Chicago, who only lived a few days and is buried in Portland.
2. Richard Ware,[5] born July 21st, 1861, at Chicago, graduated Harvard 1895. Studied at several foreign universities, Berlin and Vienna among them, and was called to the Bar in Washington, D.C.

.....

3. Emily Hall Willis[4] was born, lived, married and died in Portland, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery there. Her marriage was on June 13th, 1860, to Lewis Pierce, a lawyer of Portland, who was born April 15th, 1830. Her home as a girl was on Pleasant Street and when married on Pine Street. They had:

1. Emily Willis Pierce,[5] b. December 11th, 1861, in Portland.
2. Lewis Pierce,[5] b. July 12th, 1863, d. December 2nd, 1868, in Portland.
3. Charlotte Hall Pierce,[5] b. July 20th, 1864, mar. Warren W. Mansfield.

.....

3. Charlotte Hall Pierce[5] married April 22nd, 1890, Warren W. Mansfield. They had:

1. Emily Pierce Mansfield,[6] b. January 23rd, 1891.
2. Warren Wilson Mansfield,[6] b. May 26th, 1893.
3. Lewis Pierce Mansfield,[6] b. November 10th, 1894.
4. Howard Mansfield,[6] b. April 29th, 1896, d. March 11th, 1897. Buried in Evergreen Cemetery.
5. Frances Mansfield,[6] b. November 14th, 1902.

# CHAPTER IV.

## BENJAMIN WILLIS, JUNR., AND ELIZA SEWALL MAY.

## BENJAMIN WILLIS, JUNR., AND ELIZA SEWALL MAY.

### THIRD GENERATION.

BENJAMIN WILLIS,[3] Junr., son of Benjamin and Mary (McKinstry) Willis, was born November 16th, 1791, at Haverhill, Mass. The birth record is in that City Hall. His first education was at the public school there, then he moved with his parents to Portland, Maine, in 1803, when he was twelve years old.

He was a merchant and shipowner with his father and brother George, taking his father's place on the latter's going to Boston in 1815.

Benjamin, Junr., was married in Boston by Dr. James Freeman on Friday evening, September 19th, 1817, to Eliza Sewall May, a daughter of Colonel Joseph May (see note 5, page 109). There is a record of this marriage at the Old Court House in Boston. Eliza S. May was born in that town on December 5th, 1798.

He lived with his wife in Portland, and possibly on Free Street, which was originally the father's home.

Not being very strong in health Benjamin, Junr., went for a voyage to Europe in 1820, sailing for Liverpool in the ship "Triton," John Bussey master. In his passport taken out at the time, now in the possession of his grand-daughter Pauline Willis in England, he is thus described: "Height 5 feet $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches, hair dark brown, eyes hazel, complection light." His age was 29 years.

He visited England, France and Holland with his uncle William McKinstry. Another passport issued to him in London for France and Holland gives: "Age 28, height 5 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, forehead high, eyes brown, nose long, mouth medium, hair brown, face oval"; dated London, March 27th, 1821. This passport was signed at Amsterdam, April 13th, 1821; Utrect, April 17th, 1821; Brussels, April 20th, 1821; returning to England viâ Dieppe, May 2nd, 1821.

He came home, getting to Boston September, 1821, after a forty-five days' passage in the ship "Falcon," Captain Joseph W. Lewis. He

leaves this on record : " Lost my wife just six months after I got home." Later he writes : " My wife Elizabeth Sewall Willis died at Portland, March 5th, 1822, at half-past ten in the morning of Tuesday and was buried on the Thursday following." Her death record is in the Portland City Hall, vol. iv., page 166. She died after the birth of her third child, who did not survive.

A Memorial of her life was written in 1906 by her grandson, Benjamin Willis Wells, and printed for private circulation. This gives, with many of her letters, an interesting description of the short but beautiful career, her marriage and home in Portland. She was buried there in the Eastern Cemetery, near Munjoy Hill, in the Willis tomb, and the inscription for her on the monument contains these words : " Virtue alone has majesty in death."

Many years afterwards her sister, Abby May Alcott, writing to her son Hamilton Willis, speaks thus of his mother : " I have done the best I could to describe your mother ; after an absence of the dear presence for thirty-eight years it is difficult to particularize. I can affirm however that she was beautiful and amiable, had much religious sentiment and moral sensibility, very conscientious, scrupulous about people's feelings and opinions."

Benjamin Willis, Junr., is said to have retired from active business interests as a merchant in 1826, possibly in Portland only. Moving to Boston in 1836, in the Directory there for 1839 his name is given as a merchant at 6, City Hall, and he probably lived with his father on Fort Hill. We find in 1839 and 1845 his address is mentioned at 118, Purchase Street, which was the father's house. Mr. Nathan Gould, writing from Portland, says : " Benjamin, Junr., had a counting room corner of Middle and Union Street, but he had no residence given in Directory of 1823, but I think he was here again in 1827, and boarded at Mrs. Dana's in Congress Street and B. C. Atwood's in same street." He broke up housekeeping soon after the death of his wife in 1822, which accounts for no address being given the next year.

He used to make visits in Haverhill of several weeks duration, staying at the Eagle House, and his niece Margaret Duncan (later Mrs. Stephen H. Phillips) used to remember him there, and enjoy his taking the young people for sleigh rides.

In the summer of 1849 he moved to Walpole, New Hampshire, and lived on a beautiful farm which he owned on the Connecticut River, his only daugher, who was then married, and her children being with him. Her husband, Mr. Wells, was for some time in San Francisco.

In 1857 he moved to Brookline, Mass., his daughter and her family still remaining with him, and bought a house in Linden Place. It was built of wood, with three pillars in front, long windows and piazza at each side, a few doors in from the main road, and is still standing in 1906.

In Walpole he used to go to the Unitarian Church, and gave most liberally to it, but in Brookline he had a pew in the Baptist Church. His religious beliefs were Orthodox.

About four years before his death, being attacked with paralysis, he became quite helpless, and died at Linden Place a little after midnight on July 28th, 1870. The record is in the Brookline Town Hall, and the cause of death given as apoplexy. He was buried at Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston, near his brother Henry. According to his daughter's description of him, Benjamin Willis, Junr. was "a thorough merchant, intelligent, skilful and enterprising in commercial affairs; he several times held important positions in the State of Maine. He had a clear and retentive memory in history; with modern history he was very familiar. He was kind and hospitable."

Children of Benjamin Willis,[3] Junr. by wife Eliza Sewall May are:

1. Hamilton,[4] b. August 10th, 1818, d. November 16th, 1878, mar. first Louisa May Windship, second Helen Phillips.
2. Elizabeth Sewall,[4] b. September 12th, 1820, d. August 8th, 1900, mar. Thomas G. Wells.

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## Summary of Descendants.

### I.

The account of Hamilton Willis,[4] who married Louisa May Windship and Helen Phillips, will be given in Chapter V.

## II.—ELIZABETH SEWALL WILLIS WELLS.

Elizabeth Sewall Wells[4] was born in Portland on Tuesday morning about eight o'clock. A record of her baptism is in the First Parish Church Registers there. Dr. Nichols baptized her. The name she received was Mary Elizabeth, but after her mother's death this was changed to Elizabeth Sewall, in memory of the young mother who died at the age of twenty-four, leaving the child only two years old. Elizabeth spent the greater part of her childhood with her grandfather, Colonel Joseph May, and other relations of her mother's in Boston. She was educated for a time at the Ursuline Convent at Charlestown, Mass., and was there when it was set fire to and burned by the mob, the pupils having quite an exciting escape with the nuns during the night. Elizabeth Willis was married at Newburyport on November 6th, 1838 (the record is there), to Thomas G. Wells, who was born at Sutton, New Hampshire, on November 23rd, 1804. Their son Benjamin Willis Wells has compiled a Memorial of both his father and mother. She died at her home in Boston, at 81, Pinckney Street, and is buried at Forest Hills Cemetery, near her father.

Elizabeth and Thomas G. Wells had:

1. Eliza May Wells,[5] b. August 20th, 1839, d. September 18th, 1880, mar. Samuel S. Greeley.
2. Henry Willis Wells,[5] b. July 4th, 1841, d. December 31st, 1864, unmar.
3. Louisa Wells,[5] b. May 10th, 1846, mar. William C. Wendté.
4. Benjamin Willis Wells,[5] b. January 31st, 1856, mar. Caroline Lyman.
5. Ruth Lyman Wells,[5] b. July 28th, 1862, at Brookline, Mass.

.....

1. Eliza May Wells[5] was born in Cambridge, Mass, on "Appian Way." She married Samuel S. Greeley on September 5th, 1866. He was born October 11th, 1824, and was her mother's first cousin, his

mother being Louisa May (another daughter of Colonel Joseph May), who married Deacon Greeley of Boston. Eliza Wells was his second wife; he was a widower with three sons. She died of consumption in England, at Notting Hill in London, and is buried there at Kensal Green Cemetery. They had:

1. Elizabeth Greeley,[6] b. October 23rd, 1867, d. October 16th, 1868, at Chicago.
2. Ann Percival Greeley,[6] b. July 17th, 1869, d. November 13th, 1876.
3. Henry Sewall Greeley,[6] b. May 16th, 1871, d. May 26th, 1877.
4. Ethel May Greeley,[6] b. December 28th, 1875, mar. Lowell Copeland.
5. Ruth Greeley,[6] b. July 14th, 1878.

.....

4. Ethel May Greeley,[6] who married Lowell Copeland on January 1st, 1900, had:

1. Lowell Townsend Copeland,[7] b. December 22nd, 1900.
2. Elizabeth Sewall Copeland,[7] b. March 17th, 1903.

.....

2. Henry Willis Wells[5] was born in Cambridge, Mass., and never married. He was lost at sea off Cape Romaine, Florida, in the United States schooner "Annie," during the Civil War, and was an officer recommended for bravery, taking part in the fight between the "Monitor" and the "Merrimac." He also commanded a shore battery at the siege of Washington, N.C. The following few lines, scratched with a pencil just before the fight of the "Monitor," are still preserved in the family:

"Mt. Cambridge.

"March 9th, 1862.

"Dear Mother,

"The Monitor has attacked the Merrimac and seems to be getting the best of her. We are ordered down to Beaufort to blockade the Nashville.

"In great haste,

"HENRY."

In a contemporary newspaper cutting at the time of his death, now in one of the scrap-books left by his mother, this is recorded of him: "Ensign Henry Willis Wells, son of T. G. Wells of Brookline, Mass. Young Wells was an accomplished seaman and an excellent officer. He has been in constant service since the war began. In a hazardous enter-

prise on the North Carolina coast, for which he volunteered, he was captured by a party of rebel cavalry and imprisoned in Richmond. On his release he was promoted, put in charge of one of the small gun-boats which run the gauntlet for the relief of Newbern. Ensign Wells had considerable attainments in gunnery, and was selected by General Forster to command the Naval Battery on shore at the memorable siege of that city. The precise fate of the 'Annie' is still unknown; at the last accounts she has been missing thirty days. A wreck supposed to be her has been seen off Cape Romaine, and on an uninhabitated island in sight off the Cypress Swamp coast a fire was noticed by a passing vessel. This fact being reported to the naval station was deemed of importance enough to send a vessel to see if anything could be learned of the fate of the crew. From this search no tidings have come to hand. The 'Annie' left Key West about the 1st ultimo for Charlotte harbour. Her officers and crew numbered about 22." Henry W. Wells has a monument erected to his memory at Forest Hills Cemetery, near where his mother is buried.

.....

3. Louisa Wells[5] was born in Boston at Hartford Place. She married on December 17th, 1874, William C. Wendté, a son of Charles Wendté and Johanna Abeling Wendté of Hanover, in Germany. He was born July 26th, 1846, and died in Boston on September 22nd, 1898. He is buried at Forest Hills Cemetery in the Willis and Wells lot. They had:

1. Frederika Wendté,[6] b. February 4th, 1876, in Boston.
2. William Wendté,[6] b. August 28th, 1877, at Winchester, Mass., d. April 28th, 1904, at Kaimosi, British East Africa. He was making an extensive journey to visit various Quaker Missions in the East, being himself a member of the Society of Friends.

.....

4. Benjamin Willis Wells[5] was born at Walpole, New Hampshire. He graduated from Harvard in 1877, and studied also in Germany at Berlin. From Harvard he took A.B. and A.M. and Ph.D. degrees. He was a Fellow of Johns Hopkins University, and Instructor at the Friends' School in Providence, R.I., Professor of Modern Languages at the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., and later became an editor in New York. He has written "Histories of German and French Literature, and a critical study of French fiction." Benjamin W. Wells

married on July 3rd, 1883, his second cousin (see page 61) Caroline Lyman at her home in Orange, N.J., at 101, Harrison Street. They had:

1. Frederic Lyman Wells,[6] b. April 22nd, 1884, in Boston. Took B.A. degree in 1903 and Ph.D. in 1906 at Columbia University in New York.
2. Henry Willis Wells,[6] b. February 18th, 1895, in Sewanee, Tenn.

# CHAPTER V.

## HAMILTON WILLIS AND LOUISA M. WINDSHIP AND HELEN PHILLIPS.

# HAMILTON WILLIS AND LOUISA M. WINDSHIP AND HELEN PHILLIPS.

## FOURTH GENERATION.

HAMILTON WILLIS,[4] son of Benjamin and Eliza (Sewall May) Willis, was born in Portland, Maine, August 10th, 1818, on Monday morning. He was baptized there on Sunday, September 19th, 1819. This record is among those of the First Parish Church. Rev. Mr. Nichols was the pastor and a devoted friend of his mother.

He was named Hamilton after the statesman Alexander Hamilton, for whom his father had a great admiration. A letter about his birth will be found on page 127.

His mother died in 1822, when he was only four years old and his little sister Elizabeth was less than a year old. In the October of that year, their father having broken up the home, boarded in Portland, and both children went to live at Federal Court in Boston with their grandfather, Colonel Joseph May. There is a description of this old house on page 112.

Hamilton went very soon to Miss Abbot's day school in Boston. In 1824, when he was six, his grandfather Colonel May placed him in a private boarding school for boys at Jamaica Plain, kept by Mr. Charles W. Greene, a Harvard graduate. He soon left there however, for in September, 1825, he was living with his father in Portland and going to the Academy, which was in Congress Street, nearly opposite the First Parish Church. Mr. Cushman was his instructor. Later he went to school at Hingham, Mass. In Colonel May's Register for 1831 there is this item under January 5th: "Mr. Willis places his son Hamilton in the family of Rev. Mr. Willard in Hingham." Dr. Willard's home was then in the main street, opposite the old Meeting House. He was last at school in New Hampshire, at Pinkerton Academy, Derry, in 1833, and preparing for college. Giving up the idea however of going to the University, he tried mercantile life in Worcester, Mass, in 1835 for a

short time, then entered a broker's office in Boston (Mr. Clarke's). When quite a young man he opened a broker's office of his own at 25, State Street, Boston, and eventually became a banker at the age of nineteen or twenty; his firm was known as "Willis & Co.," and continued from 1837 to 1855. He lived at one time in his bachelor days in rooms that he furnished on Beacon Street, at the corner of Walnut nearest to Charles Street. His address is given in the Boston Directory for 1839 as at 105, Purchase Street; this would have been near his grandfather Willis. In 1841 his address was at 71, Atkinson Street, also in Boston.

In 1839 he went for a trip to Canada, and in the passport obtained at that time he is described as "size 6 feet, complection light, hair brown, eyes black, age 20, occupation banker." In 1855 he thought of going to Europe, but did not do so. The passport then obtained describes him more fully and correctly: "37 years, stature 5 feet 11 inches, eyes dark grey, nose medium, mouth regular, chin dimpled, complection light, face rather oval, forehead high." Both of these passports are now in the possession of his daughter Pauline in London.

Hamilton Willis was a very successful banker, but in 1855, when a great wave of financial trouble and misfortune swept over the country, his firm failed and he was completely ruined. In a Boston newspaper, giving an account of him years after among prominent men, this was said of the closing of his bank, that "it was like the sun going down at noonday."

He had a home at one time in West Roxbury, living there part of the year and spending the winters in Boston. This was during the years of his married life with his first wife. After his failure he lived in a small house on the corner of Washington and Lenox Streets, and chiefly during the building of the Metropolitan street railway, an enterprise that he was interested in.

From the time of his financial misfortune in 1855, he never again engaged in any regular professional or business career, and would have been a poor man had he not received an allowance from his father, who also by his will left him a life interest in a property which was eventually to go to his children. Naturally of an extremely energetic temperament, he could not remain altogether idle, and therefore took a keen interest in various important questions of his day. The cutting down of Fort Hill, establishing the Norfolk county railroad, and introducing horse cars into Boston and the vicinity, were some of the things that he had a prominent part in promoting. He was elected a member of the Boston School

Committee in 1850, and started a financial gazette, which is now continued by others.

In 1862, at the time of the Civil War, his first wife, in writing to his cousin Rebecca Duncan at Haverhill (the letter is now there), says: "Hamilton is still busy as ever, actively engaged in all sorts of things, talking up the necessities of the present moment and talking down its doubts, speaking at war meetings, encouraging recruits, etc., doing all he can, he says."

On November 9th, 1843, he became a member of the Lodge of St. Andrew Free Mason. His daughter has many of his Masonic certificates and badges, and a silver tray presented to him by his Lodge. He joined the Boston Commandery K.T. March 27th, 1844, and was a Charter Member of the De Molay Commandery in 1848. He served as Worshipful Master from 1847 to 1850, and in 1856 delivered a Centennial Masonic Oration.

He wrote a great many articles for the newspapers, principally from the mountains which he was fond of visiting, and a large number of them are to be found in several volumes of his scrap-books; these his daughter also has.

Hamilton Willis was married first on August 23rd, 1842, at Dr. Putnam's Unitarian Church in Roxbury, Mass., to Louisa May Windship, an only daughter of Dr. Charles Windship and Martha Ruggles Zeigler. She was born on February 3rd, 1819, and died at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York on November 24th, 1862, and was buried at Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston, in her husband's lot. Bright, lively and highly intelligent she was.

On April 28th, 1864, he was married again, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Boston, by Bishop Manton Eastburn of Massachusetts and Rector of Trinity Church, to Helen Phillips, a daughter of Samuel Phillips of Andover (see note 6, page 115). She was born in Newburyport, Mass., on June 5th, 1834, and at the time of her wedding was staying in Boston at 5, Ashburton Place. The marriage record is in the Town Hall, Brookline, as Hamilton had been living there with his father in Linden Place. He went first with his bride to Niagara Falls and to the mountains. Later they lived at 77, Pinckney Street, Boston, and in 1873 he bought the house at 12, Louisburg Square, which continued to be his home until his death. He died there on Saturday, November 16th, 1878, of kidney disease, and this record is in the Old Court House. The funeral service was at the house, conducted by Rev. E. Osborne and Dr. Bartol, the former going to the grave.

The following notice appeared in a current paper: "The funeral of Hamilton Willis took place this afternoon from No. 12, Louisburg Square. There was a large attendance, including delegations from the De Molay Commandery of Knights Templars, and St. Andrew's Lodge of Masons. Rev. Phillips Brooks, Rev. J. H. Means, and Rev. Mr. May were also present. The services were conducted by Rev. Dr. Bartol, music being rendered by the choir of boys from the Church of the Advent. The remains were taken to Forest Hills Cemetery, members of St. Andrew's Lodge acting as pall-bearers."

Hamilton Willis was a strong, active, vigorous man, fond of riding and driving and long excursions in the mountains. A splendid mind and keenest intelligence. Tall and broad-shouldered, fine strongly-marked face, dark hair and eyes. He was said to resemble Daniel Webster, and had the same high forehead. His religious belief was Unitarian. Among his many relations and friends he was remembered as a universal favourite, generous and kind-hearted.

His brother-in-law, Samuel Phillips, wrote these lines at the time of his death in the "Boston Post," dated November 19th: "The late Mr. Hamilton Willis was in many respects a remarkable man, uniting as he did in his life and character so many of the higher and nobler instincts of our nature. Combined in his organization with an exceptionally clear head and cool judgment in the matters of business and every-day life, and also a knowledge of and insight into human nature that enabled him at once to detect and repel all mercenary or unworthy approaches, were to be found flourishing side by side all of the finer feelings and sensibilities of which our lives here are capable. His ear was ever open to the appeal, and his purse ever ready to supply the wants of suffering humanity. The more humble the object, the more ready were his kind and judicious advice and charity to display, or rather to make themselves felt, for his was a truly unostentatious doing of good. In his last sickness he thought more of the comfort and happiness of others than of his own. His literary attainments were very considerable, he having read extensively; and his happy faculty of conversation, combined with his knowledge of authors, and a ready interest in and digest of all the current topics of the day, rendered him a most instructive and entertaining companion. But his race here has been run, and he will be mourned and his loss regretted by all those who knew him best."

Hamilton Willis[4] by his wife Louisa M. Windship had:

1. Hamilton,[5] b. February 17th, 1844, d. May 8th, 1844.

Four other children, died in early infancy.

By his wife Helen Phillips he had:

1. Alice Hamilton,[5] b. February 19th, 1865, in Boston at 8, Allston Street, d. June 20th, 1884, in Chicago, Illinois, unmar.
2. Pauline,[5] b. November 9th, 1870, in Boston, at 77, Pinckney Street.
3. Hamilton,[5] b. July 6th, 1873, d. October 4th, 1900, mar. Ethel Margaret Wordsworth.

All these children were baptized at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist in Boston, and their birth records are in the Old Court House, Boston. Mrs. Willis and her two younger children went to live in England in 1884, and she has made her home there since then.

# CHAPTER VI.

## HAMILTON WILLIS AND ETHEL M. WORDSWORTH.

## VINCENT HAMILTON WORDSWORTH WILLIS.

## HAMILTON WILLIS (Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple) and ETHEL MARGARET WORDSWORTH.

### FIFTH AND SIXTH GENERATIONS.

Hamilton Willis,[5] the only son of Hamilton and Helen (Phillips) Willis, was born in Dorchester, Mass., on Sunday, July 6th, 1873, at a house in Bowdoin Street, called the "Swan Place," which his parents had taken for the summer. The record of his birth is at the Old Court House, Boston.

He was baptized on June 14th, 1874, at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, Boston, his godfather being his maternal uncle, Samuel Phillips, and he received the names of Benjamin McKinstry Willis. These were changed legally to that of Hamilton after the death of his father in 1878, and this is recorded at the New Court House, Boston, as granted by the Probate Court, June 16th, 1879.

He lived as a child in Boston at 12, Louisburg Square, a house bought by his father at the time of his birth. In his early years he went to Chauncey Hall day school in Copley Square. When only five years old his father died, and when ten he lost his elder sister Alice Hamilton Willis, a beautiful girl of nineteen, who died suddenly at Chicago on June 20th, 1884, while visiting relations there. His mother then decided to give up her home in Boston and go to England to live; this she did in the September of that year. Hamilton having been seriously ill the previous winter, some move was necessary on his account, and away from the severe New England climate.*

Before leaving America he was received into the Catholic Church in Boston on June 27th, 1883, by Rev. Holker Welch, S.J., at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. His mother and only remaining sister also became Catholics the same year, somewhat earlier.

During his life Hamilton Willis travelled a great deal. Before going

* It was on account of his health that he continued to make his home in England, though as he grew older, he hoped to be able to return some day and live in his own country.

to England he had been for his health to Bermuda and North Carolina in 1883. He was educated almost entirely by private tutors in England, and lived at various times in Ventnor, Isle of Wight, for about five years, and at Torquay in Devonshire, and eventually in London. There he was confirmed by Cardinal Manning on February 14th, 1889, in his private chapel at Archbishop's House, Carlisle Place, Westminster.

In 1894 he entered the Medical School of St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park, London, and studied medicine for about two years, passing all his examinations during that time. Later he decided to study Law and became a member of the Middle Temple in London, and was "Called" to the Bar on May 9th, 1900.

Besides travelling in England and Scotland, and spending the greater part of the last three winters of his life in France on the Riviera, he lived also for a time in Wiesbaden in 1889. He travelled in Germany, Italy, Belgium and Switzerland, and spent the winter of 1891-2 in Barbadoes, West Indies, visiting as well the islands of Trinidad, Grenada and St. Vincent.

In 1896 he took a voyage round the world alone. Sailing from Plymouth on February 8th on the Orient Line SS. "Ophir," he went by the Mediterranean, Red Sea and Indian Ocean to Ceylon and Australia. Then coming up the Pacific on the SS. "Monowai" and stopping at New Zealand, Samoa (Apia), and Honolulu to San Francisco. Crossing the American continent he returned to England the same year.

Hamilton Willis was married in London on Thursday at 2 p.m., July 28th, 1898, at the Catholic Church of St. James, Spanish Place, by Rev. Luke Rivington, assisted by Rev. Herbert Laughton, to Ethel Margaret Wordsworth. She was an only child of William Wordsworth of Monk Bretton in Yorkshire, where she was born on December 24th, 1872. The poet Wordsworth belonged to a younger branch of her father's family.

Hamilton was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of England, and a member of various London clubs at different times, the Primrose, New Travellers, and Royal Societies. He wrote occasionally short articles for the papers on religious and other subjects.

Like his father, whom he resembled, he had a strongly marked face, high forehead, deep-set blue eyes, and a firm mouth and chin. Rather fair complexion and brown hair. He was tall and broad-shouldered, and had great muscular strength; was fond of horses, riding and driving and sports. With a remarkably keen mind and memory, and a great

reader, he had the brightest and most cheerful disposition, and was deeply religious. He sang beautifully, a baritone voice.

Hamilton Willis died of Bright's disease at Bridge of Allan, Scotland, on Thursday, October 4th, 1900, at about noon. He was buried at the Catholic cemetery of St. Mary's, Kensal Green, London, beside his little son, on October 8th. The Requiem Mass, said by Rev. Herbert Laughton, was at St. James' Church, where he was married. By his will he left all of his property, after the death of his wife, mother and sister, to be equally divided between three institutions: the Catholic University of America at Washington, D.C.; the London Hospital in Whitechapel (the largest in England); and to the Catholic Sisters of Nazareth in England, who have homes for the aged poor, both men and women, and for children.

A short Memoir of him has been written by his sister Pauline, giving a more detailed account of his life, and some of his writings. Only a few copies have been printed for private circulation.

His widow married again, Captain Ranald Martin of the British Army.

Hamilton Willis[5] by his wife Ethel Margaret Wordsworth had:

1. Vincent Hamilton Wordsworth,[6] b. July 26th, 1899, d. April 12th, 1900.

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## VINCENT HAMILTON WORDSWORTH WILLIS.

### SIXTH GENERATION.

Vincent Hamilton Wordsworth Willis[6] was born at the home of his grandmother Willis, 3, Kensington Gate, London, on Wednesday, July 26th, 1899, at about six in the evening.

He was baptized on Sunday morning, August 13th, at St. James' Church, Spanish Place (where his parents were married), by Rev. Herbert Laughton. His aunt, Pauline Willis, was his only godparent.

Soon after his birth he was taken to Aberystwyth in Wales, and the following December went to Cannes on the Riviera with his parents, who moved later to Hyères. There he died of bronchitis or pneumonia, after several weeks of illness, when only eight and a half months old. His death took place in his father's arms on Holy Thursday morning, at

about 9.30, on April 12th, 1900. He was brought back to London to the home of his grandmother Wordsworth at 9, Ashley Gardens, Westminster, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery of St. Mary's at Kensal Green, on April 18th. The funeral service was held in the chapel at the cemetery, and conducted by Fr. Laughton, who had baptized him.

A beautiful child, with dark blue eyes, brown hair, a finely shaped head and brow. He looked like his father. Vincent Hamilton Wordsworth Willis was the last male descendant in the direct line of the eldest sons, from Benjamin Willis and Mary (Ball) Willis of Charlestown. Possibly descended also from Michael Willis, who died in 1669, and is said to have come from London to America in 1635.

# *PART II.*

## NOTES ON VARIOUS FAMILIES CONNECTED BY MARRIAGE.

## I.—GAMMELL FAMILY.

All that it seems possible to discover from genealogical records is that the first of this family went to America about 1740 and settled in Boston.

He had at least two sons, John and William. John was born prior to 1750. He took an active part in many important events which preceded the Revolution, and was engaged in the destruction of the tea in Boston harbour, and also of the Stamp Office.

Immediately after the investment of Boston he moved his family, consisting of a wife and one child, to Lexington. On June 18th, 1775, he enlisted in the Revolutionary Army.

## II.—BALL FAMILY.

Captain Robert Ball, the father of Mary Ball who married Benjamin Willis, was an energetic shipmaster at Charlestown. Later he settled at Haverhill as a merchant, and owned several vessels which sailed from Newburyport. He was a prominent citizen, and represented Haverhill in the General Court.

There was a portrait of him by Smybert, and a smaller one of his wife (Elizabeth Davidson) by Blackburn. These were in the possession of the Hon. William Willis, and from him passed to Mr. Henry H. Edes.

In the East Cambridge Court House there is a record of a Captain Robert Ball, mariner, died intestate, represented insolvent. Inventory dated August 21st, 1754, widow Elizabeth mentioned, also a dwelling house and land bounded on Wapping Street. The whole real estate valued at £700. This may have been the grandfather of Mary Ball. There is also the inventory of the estate of another Captain Robert Ball, mariner, died intestate, dated May 7th, 1773. The widow, called Millicent Ball, speaks of a certain sum for the maintenance of herself and four children for twelve months, Elizabeth, Joanna, Mary, and Robert.

The following is from the Manuscripts of William Willis, Book Y, page 74:

"Ball, Robert, was admitted to the church in Charlestown, 1728. He was a shipmaster and engaged in the African trade, in which he was killed 1753. He was born in London 1700. He married Elizabeth Davidson, who is said to have been of Maryland. She was a sister of Major Davidson of Newburyport, who was a man of some note there and buried under arms. Their children were:

1. Elizabeth, b. March 11th, 1729.
2. Joanna, b. April 7th, 1732, mar. John Stanton, May 23rd, 1751, d. September 22nd, 1791.

    John Stanton died in Charlestown, June, 1802, aged 77.

3. Robert, b. December 8th, 1736, mar. Eliza Wair, July 1st, 1759. She died September 5th, 1764. Their children were:

    1. Eliza, b. in Charlestown June 4th, 1760, d. October 4th, 1764.
    2. Joanna, b. May 1st, 1762.
    3. Mary, b. August 29th, 1764, mar. Thomas Edes.

    Robert married a second wife, Amelia Harris, by whom he had:

    1. Robert Ball.
    2. Elizabeth, married to Elisha Holmes.

4. Eliza, b. March 14th, 1739.

    All the above in Charlestown.

5. Mary, b. September 16th, 1742, in Concord, Mass., mar. B. Willis, 1767.
6. John, died a prisoner in England during the Revolutionary War. His daughter, Betsey Davidson, married Jacob Miller. Their posterity living in Canaan, New Hampshire, are two daughters and one son, Horace Willis Miller, the youngest child, b. in 1821. The remaining daughter lives in Illinois. Parents dead, 1848.

Most of the early parts above recorded were found in a family Bible, edition 1653, given by Lydia Shepherd of London to Joanna Ball first above mentioned, 1734; now in possession of Benj. Willis Howe, Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Robert Ball died March 22nd, 1772. Master of a vessel and washed overboard and lost at sea. Said to have been a superior man."

In the New England Historical and Genealogical Register for April, 1868, page 197, vol. xxii., is the following notice:

"Robert Ball, m. at Charlestown, Mass., June 26th, 1728, Elizabeth Davidson of Maryland (her brother, Major Davidson, lived in Newburyport), by whom he had three children at Charlestown; he was a member of the First Church, November 3rd, 1728, and was lost off the coast of Guinea in 1753, aged 53, as we learn from a stone erected to his memory in the old burying ground at Charlestown."

### Entries of Bible, Edition of 1653.

(In possession of Benj. Willis Howe, New York City.)

On first blank leaf:

Joanna Ball (born Apr. 7, 1732) her book gave her by her great aunt Lidia Sheppard Ap. 1st (or 6th) 1734 in London.
First Eliza Ball born 11th March 1728-9 in Charlestown.
Second Eliza'h Ball was born March ye 14, 1738-9 at one o'clock in the morning.
Mary Ball. Born in Concord Sept. 16th, 1742 about 1 o'clock at noon.
Robert Ball. Born in Charlestown Dec. 8th, 1736 at 4 in ye afternoon.

On second blank leaf:

Robert Ball marryed to Eliza. Wair July 1st 1759.
First Eliza. Ball born in Charlestown June 4th 1760 on Wednesday at 4 o'clock in ye afternoon.

Second Joanna Ball. Born in Charlestown on Saturday 1st of May 1762, at 5 in ye afternoon.
Third Mary Ball. Born in Charlestown on Thursday Augt 29, 1764 at 9 at night.
My beloved wife departed this life on Wednesday Sept. 5, 1764 at three quarters of a hour after 7 at night.
My daughter Eliza. Ball departed this life on Thursday Oct. 4, 1764, at 10 o'clock in ye morning after a short illness.

On blank leaf in back of Bible:

May 4 C 23rd 1751 John Stanton married to Joanna Ball.
Joanna Stanton my beloved wife departed this life Sep. 22, 1791 at one half past 11 A.M.

The following letter was written by Robert Ball Willis (son of Benjamin Willis and Mary Ball) to his nephew William Willis in Portland. It is now among his manuscripts there, Book H, Letter 28:

Haverhill, Jan. 14th, 1846.

William,

The only record I have of relations on mother's side is this: "Robert Ball died 1772, aged 35." All the rest that I know of them is hearsay from her, and as to her father and mother I believe what she knew herself she had from others, because this is the impression I always had when she spoke of them, and because she very seldom mentioned them, contrary to what she would have done had she known and remembered them. It seems to me probable they died before she was old enough to remember much about them. I have heard her say that her father was born in England, and I think in London, that he was Master of a vessel and made voyages to Guinea, but she never spoke of his going anywhere else. She said he used to bring gold dust and ivory. These were commodities that she dwelt on most, though she would sometimes say that he brought negroes. There was one in this town called Old Salem, very old as long as I can remember, whom she said her father brought from Guinea. I infer that this was most likely to have been as early as 1740, because Salem was then about 20, and because this being about the best age for the purpose of the voyage, it is reasonable to suppose my inference does not vary much from the time when he was brought to this country. . . . . Either from his children having been too young to enquire or know the circumstances of his death, and his having no other relations that were interested about it, or because it actually was mysterious, nothing I believe satisfactory can be known to his descendants.

There is no doubt of what I have to relate of his children, four of them, and I never heard that there were any more. Joanna I remember,

she was married to Captain John Stanton, and died about the year 1791. Robert Ball was Master of a vessel, and was washed overboard and lost in a severe gale about the 20th of March, 1772. My mother used to say that he was carried into the vessel by the return of a wave, and called to James Call by name, one of the seamen, to hand him a rope, but it was not done in time to save him, though it was thrown almost within his reach. My mother was always extravagant in his praise, and it appears from other sources that he was superior to other men in his profession, though I could never learn particularly for what. I believe from some stories she told of him that he had what she was very deficient in, great courage. Perhaps he had his own and the share that ought to have been hers. John Ball, another brother, she seldom said much about. From some papers in my possession it appears he was mate with my father in an armed merchant vessel, called the "Betsey," in a voyage from Newburyport to Martinico in 1780. They were taken by a British frigate on their return, and whether John Ball ever returned I do not know, yet I think he must, as one of his children who lived in Canaan, N.H., could not it seems to me have been so old as to agree with his not returning from that voyage. She married a Mr. Miller by name, and without the Mr. by occupation. I have not heard of her for more than thirty years. If you know or can learn anything of her I wish you would let me know it. Of my mother's mother I know nothing to be the least relied on; she used to say that she originated in Old Concord, and she talked about the names of Davis or Davison, as she pronounced it, perhaps it was Davidson, as her relations by her mother's side. I have an impression about both, because both she used to speak of as relations or acquaintances.

I am aware that this account goes beyond your enquiries, yet that part of it may contain something of interest to you.

Yours truly,

Robt. B. Willis.

## III.—McKINSTRY FAMILY.

Hon. William Willis of Portland has written a Genealogy of the McKinstry family, with a preliminary essay on the Scotch-Irish Immigration to America. John McKinstry was the first of the name who went to that country from Antrim in Ireland. He was of Scotch descent, being the son of Roger McKinstry and Mary Wilson, who lived in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh until, during the persecution of Charles II. about 1669, they sought religious security and repose with other Presbyterians in the county of Ulster, Ireland.

John McKinstry was born in 1677 in Brode parish, Antrim, educated at the University of Edinburgh, and graduated in 1712. He emigrated in 1718, and arrived in Boston on August 4th. Settled later at Sutton, then at Ellington, Connecticut. His wife was Elizabeth Fairfield of Wenham, Mass., born in 1681, died October 25th, 1762. Their son was:

Dr. William McKinstry, b. October 8th, 1732. Settled at Taunton, Mass., mar. November 27th, 1760, Priscilla Leonard* of Plymouth, Mass. They had:

Mary McKinstry, b. August 17th, 1770, mar. January 9th, 1791, Benjamin Willis of Haverhill.

Dr. William McKinstry, the father of Mary Willis, was a successful doctor in Taunton in 1774. He was attached to the British cause, and being persecuted for this he retired to Boston and was made surgeon-general of the hospitals there by Gen. Gage; his family soon followed him. After the Battle of Bunker Hill, when Boston was evacuated, Dr. William McKinstry went on board the fleet (with his family), which lay in Nantasket roads ten days waiting orders. During that time, March 21st, 1776, he died of consumption on board the "Dutton" hospital ship, and his remains lie buried on George's Island in that harbour. The rest of the family were taken in the fleet to Halifax. The fleet also took away about a thousand refugees. The family re-

mained in Halifax, with the exception of William, the eldest son, until 1778, when they returned to the States, making Newport, R.I., their home during its occupation by the British. After its evacuation they went to Haverhill, Mass., where a sister of Mrs. McKinstry (Mrs. John White) lived, and she died there May 26th, 1786, honoured and loved.

The four brothers of Mary McKinstry Willis died unmarried. The eldest was Rev. William McKinstry, born in 1762 and died in 1823. He entered the English Navy in 1776, and lost his right arm in an action with an American privateer and was shot overboard. He kept afloat till saved after the action. Then he became a clergyman of the Church of England, and was a cultivated scholar. He visited the Continent as tutor to a son of Lord Colchester, and a son of Bryon Edwards, and dining with Lord Nelson at Dresden he heard his account of the Battle of the Nile. He was at an hotel in Munich when Gen. Moreau arrived to command the French Army. A few days after was fought the celebrated Battle of Hohenlinden, and Mr. McKinstry with the poet Campbell had the good fortune to be near the scene of the combat; a cannon ball struck near the spot where they stood. After the battle, he followed the French Army in its famous retreat, keeping a day behind. He went to America, and died in 1823 at his sister Sparhawk's home in Concord, N.H., on August 26th, and was buried at Dunbarton, N.H. He had only arrived from England the previous June in company with Benjamin Willis, his brother-in-law.

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## *LEONARD FAMILY.

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register gives this:

"It has been said that the Leonards are of the family of Leonard Lord Dacre, one of the most distinguished families of the nobility in the United Kingdom, and descended in two lines from Edward III. through two of his sons, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and Thomas Plantagenet, Duke of Gloucester, and this statement has some plausibility.

"When Daniel Leonard, late Chief Justice of Bermuda, first went to England to reside, he was introduced to Lord Dacre, then a Leonard, who acknowledged the affinity, and Rev. William McKinstry, who was a descendant of the Taunton Leonards and settled in England, was noticed as a relative by Lady Dacre."

## The New England Leonards.

1. In 1652 our ancestor James Leonard, with his brother Henry, sons of Thomas Leonard, skilled in the manufactory of iron, came from Pontypool, Monmouthshire, Wales, and settled in Raynham and erected a forge. The old Leonard house was built as early as 1670, and when demolished was probably the oldest house standing in New England.

Leonards in England and America were famed for their ironworks; "where you can find ironworks, there you will find a Leonard." They were great friends of King Philip, whose home was a mile from the Raynham forge.

2. Thomas Leonard came to New England with his father James when a small boy. He was a physician, major, justice of the peace, town clerk, and deacon.

3. Major George Leonard, third son of the above Thomas, removed in 1690 to Norton, then a part of Taunton, where he became proprietor of large tracts of land, and was as it were the founder of Norton. There, as possessors of great wealth and of the largest landed estate in New England, the family lived in baronial style. Major George was in 1716 Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

4. His son, Rev. Nathanial Leonard, was born at Norton March 9th, 1700, graduated at Harvard 1719, and married, 1724, Priscilla Rogers of Ipswich. He was ordained at Plymouth July 29th, 1724, and was minister thirty years. He died 1761, and had sixteen children.

His daughter, Priscilla Leonard, married Dr. William McKinstry, and their child was Mary, who married Benjamin Willis.

## IV.—KINSMAN FAMILY.

This family is of ancient origin in England, the name is spelled variously Kynesman, Kinnesman, Kingesman, and Kinsman.

By reference to the pedigree it will be seen that the earliest record found is in 1337, and that there was a continuous line of the family in Northamptonshire, where for nearly 400 years the main branch flourished.

There is a genealogical record of the Kinsman family, compiled by Frederick Kinsman and Lucy W. Stickney. There were Kinsmans in Essex probably of the same stock, and in the seventeenth century a branch of the Northampton family settled in Devonshire, and their descendants are still living. A pedigree of the family was drawn out by Mrs. Harriet A. De Salis, of London, for the Kinsman genealogy. The first ancestor in New England was Robert Kinsman, or Kingsman, who went over in the ship "Mary and John" of London, Robert Sayres master, sailing from Southampton in March, 1634, and reaching Boston in May. He is supposed to have come from Wiltshire, and to have been a son of Robert, who died there in 1647. If this can be proved, the family is descended from the Northamptonshire one, whose pedigree is traced in the book referred to above, and the coat of arms given.

1. Robert Kinsman, born in 1629, married Mary Boreman of Ipswich, and had:
2. Thomas, born in Ipswich, April 15th, 1662, married there Elizabeth Burnham, July 12th, 1687, and had:
3. Stephen, born about 1688, married first Lucy Kimball, and second Lydia Kimball. By the second wife he had:
4. Stephen, born in Ipswich March 30th, 1718, married Elizabeth Russell, April 10th, 1739, and had:
5. Aaron, born in Ipswich, baptized August 21st, 1743, died August 24th, 1810, at Hanover, N.H.; married Rose Burnham December 5th, 1765, later he married Mary Hall, in Medford. By wife Rose he had:

6. Dr. Aaron Kinsman, born in Ipswich, baptized there October 12th, 1766, died May 11th, 1808; Dartmouth College in 1787. Studied his profession with Dr. Brooks. Married, first, Hannah Crane of Hanover, N.H., in 1796; she died in 1797. Soon after he moved to Portland. Married, secondly, Ann Willis, June 14th, 1802, and had:

7. Henry Kinsman, who married his first cousin, Elizabeth Willis.

## V.—MAY FAMILY.

The following account of the May family is gathered from the May Book, or as it is correctly entitled, "A Genealogy of the Descendants of John May," published in Boston in 1878. We are told that, "From John May, who came to America in 1640 with his wife and two sons, John and Samuel, and settled in Roxbury, Mass., have been descended the greater part of those who have borne or who bear the name of May in New England.* . . . . A book printed in London, in 1694, and entitled 'Worthies of England in Church and State,' assigns a Portuguese origin to the Mays of Sussex, England, and says 'they were sheriffs' there; and a long current tradition, for which, however, we can find no certain basis, places the home in England of our first ancestor at Mayfield, a town in the county of Sussex. . . . . In this connection the interesting fact may be mentioned that the wife of William Bradford, afterwards Governor of the Plymouth colony for thirty years, who accompanied him in the 'Mayflower' from England, was Dorothy May, and tradition also connects her with the county of Sussex. She did not live to reach Plymouth."

In the May Book there is a description of Mayfield, in Sussex, England, and of how it came into the possession of the May family. If the question of Portuguese origin be authentic, it seems to assist us in proving the descent of our May family to this Sussex one, as various members of those who have the May blood in their veins have certainly a dark, foreign look.

1. John May, who came to America in 1640, was born in England in 1590, died in 1670 on April 28th. His first wife's name not known, the second was Sarah ——. He had by the first wife:

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* As mentioned on page 9, we find from lists kept at the Admiralty Office in London that two voyages between 1635 and 1640 were made by a vessel named the "James," Mr. May, master, from the Port of London to New England. Our ancestor was possibly this Mr. May.

2. John May, born in England in 1631, died September 11th, 1671. He had:
3. John May, born in Roxbury, May 19th, 1663, died February 24th, 1730, married Prudence Bridge, and had:
4. Ebenezer May, born October 19th, 1692, died May 2nd, 1752, married Abigail Gore, and had:
5. Samuel May, born February 17th, 1723, died August 9th, 1794, married, first, Catherine Mears, and secondly, Abigail Williams. By his second wife he had:
6. Joseph May, born March 25th, 1760, died February 27th, 1841, married Dorothy Sewall,* and had:
7. Elizabeth Sewall May, born December 5th, 1798, died March 5th, 1822, married Benjamin Willis.

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## * SEWALL FAMILY.

Dorothy Sewall was a great grand-daughter of Samuel Sewall, the Chief Justice of Massachusetts, who was descended from Henry Sewall of Coventry, England. The following account of the family is taken from a record of Col. Joseph May, a copy of which is in the possession of Pauline Willis:

"Memorandum of the Sewall family, taken principally from a copy of a letter dated April 21st, 1720, written by Hon. Samuel Sewall of Boston, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for the Province of Mass. Bay, to his son Samuel Sewall of *Brooklyne*, near Boston.

"Henry Sewall, my great-grandfather, was a linen-draper in the city of Coventry, Gt. Britain. He was a prudent man, he acquired a great estate, and was more than once chosen Mayor of the City. Henry Sewall my grandfather was his 'eldest son, who out of dislike to the English Heirarchy sent over his only son, my Father Henry, to New England in ship 'Elizabeth and Dorcas,' Capt. Watts, with cattle and provisions suitable for a new plantation. Mr. Cotton would have had my Father settle in Boston, but in regard of his cattle he chose to go to Newbury, whither my grandfather soon followed him, where also my grandfather Mr. Stephen Dummer and Alice his wife likewise dwelled, under the ministry of Rev. Thos. Parker and Mr. Jas. Nyes.

"On 25th March, 1646, Richard Saltonstall, Grandfather of Gurdon Saltonstall now Governor of Connecticut, joined together in marriage my

Father Mr. Henry Sewall and my Mother Miss Jane Dummer, eldest daughter of Mr. Stephen Dummer and Alice aforesaid. My Father being then about 32 years of age and my Mother 19. The following winter Mr. Dummer and his wife, with their son Sewall and his wife, returned to England."

The following note is added by Samuel Sewall of Brookline to the copy of the Chief Justice's letter, viz.:

"June 30th, 1729, I received the following from my honoured Father (the Ch. Justice)." Then he adds:

"My grandfather Sewall lived in Newbury at old Town Green, where the first Meeting-house stood, and upon the removal of the Meeting-house to where it now stands (it being Mr. Tappan's M. H.) he sold his house and grounds and removed to Rowley, where he died and was buried in 1654. Mr. Sewall and Jane his wife had five children in England, of whom Samuel the Chief Justice was the second, born at Bishop Stoke March 28th, 1652, and died Jan. 17th, 1728—39. His Father returned to America in 1661, and sent for his wife and five children. They settled again in Newbury, Mass. and had three more children. Joseph son of Samuel, born 1688, died June 27th, 1769. He was Minister of the Old South Church, Boston; he married Elizabeth Walley Oct. 29th, 1713, and had two children Samuel and Joseph. Samuel, Deacon of Old South Church, born 1715 and died Jan. 19th, 1771; he married Mary Quincy and last Elizabeth Quincy, May 18th, 1749, and had eight children; one of these eight was Dorothy, who was born 1758 and died Oct. 31st, 1825, in Federal Court in Boston. This Dorothy (Sewall) married Col. Joseph May, Dec. 28th, 1784."

The following letter is from Lewis Sewall of Blakely, in the Bay of Mobile, Alabama, to Mr. Henry Sewall, son of Gen. Henry Sewall of Augusta, Maine:

"Sir,

When Cromwell ruled Old England's isle,
And drove the Stuart into exile,
Two Henry Sewalls, gallant hearts,
From principle took different parts,
Your ancestor as poets sing
Joined Oliver and mine the King.
But when the Second Charles returned,
And when Cromwell's corps were hanged or burned,

Your ancestor to Boston steered
And mine to Maryland I've heard.
Our family records say 'tis true
And hence these lines I write to you.
Three volant Bees, our arms display,
As English Heralds' records say,
And for the crest, a Leopard's Head
So placed, although the beast is dead.
You now can tell, or bad or good,
If you and I are of one blood.

"I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

"LEWIS SEWALL.

"Blakely, Ala., 22nd Feb., 1820."

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An account of the home of Col. Joseph May and his wife Dorothy Sewall May will be of interest.

DESCRIPTION OF COLONEL JOSEPH MAY'S HOME IN FEDERAL COURT, BOSTON, BY LOUISA C. BOND, HIS ADOPTED DAUGHTER.

(This account is in one of Mrs. E. S. Wells' scrap-books.)

"The Federal Court house was in the southern half of the last house in the Court. At the time of the failure of the firm of Joseph May & Co. in 1800, this residence was given to the family of the honourable debtor, while a place in a new insurance office (the Boston, Maine) secured him the means of occupying it. He had declared his intention to abandon trade with all its uncertainties, thus leaving to others the chance of making a fortune. The Court led out of Federal Street, and after a short course westward, with a plank side-walk on the south side, made a turn to the south, continuing past a small wooden house at the corner, then crossing diagonally to Mr. Hanner's dwelling, and past his garden to the double house at the end of the Court, where it was replaced by a neat brick walk. There was a high wooden fence along the opposite side, and at the end of the Court, there being mostly gardens beyond, neither side-walk nor gate were needed. Two Lombardy poplars served as tie posts for horses in the quiet nook, giving what shade they might afford.

"The yard of the house was about as wide as the house itself, and paved with square granite flag-stones, the southern had been removed

and a precious strip called garden took its place. There was a substantial plank curb to the border, and a sloping paved space, perhaps twelve inches in breadth, led down to the well-kept gutter, to relieve which in melting weather a tiny gate was cut in the fence. The border of this peaceful yard was a high fence with broad slats, between which could be seen the green grass of the orchard of choice pear trees adorning the dwelling, but not near enough to shroud or shade it.

" The strip of garden extended along the front of the house, and spread its honeysuckles and morning glories over the end of the wood house which there met it. In that strip was a bed of periwinkles, rose bushes, marvel of Peru, evening primroses, sweet Williams, polyanthus, pinks. A variety of small plants were sometimes brought from the Phillips' and Salisbury gardens, and the myrtle and jasmine from the parlour window were set out there in their Spanish jars when warm weather came.

" The house was three stories high, three rooms on each floor. The front door was between the two parlours (a large square granite stone slab raised the entrance from the level of the yard). Two greenish panes of glass, one a bull's eye, lighted the entry from the top of the door, over which hung leathern fire buckets, supplied with strong linen bags, a bed key and other things needed at fires.

" From the entry rose the front stairs, straight with square landings. The front parlour had nothing to give it character after the mirrors were removed to the room above. The mantle pieces were of wood, the fire places ample, wood being the only fuel used at that time. In the back parlour a soap stone fire-place gave out more heat, while there was plenty of room for a good sized log and other essentials for a genial blaze. The furnishing of the room was of the simplest, but a merrier place could not be desired than it often became. Music, young people, strangers always welcome, old time narrations from the elders, books and drawings, in the evenings lessons studied in spite of noise.

" The middle outside door was much used by the family, there being no bell, and the knocker not always heard by the busy workpeople. The back part of the house being narrower than the front, an end window to the west enlivened the parlour and the chambers over it. The kitchen was supplied with a Rumford boiler and oven, and the wash-room beyond had a pump of famous water, with a long sink, while the soft water for washing was drawn up at the other end near the window and door leading to the yard. The west window of the wash-room was a favourite place, it looked into a large pasture, to my young eyes almost boundless.

Of a summer afternoon near sundown, seated on the great table with the window wide open, I sang the long swelling notes of Moore's melodies, with no thought of praise or criticism.

"How so many were housed in this small house one can hardly make out. I never knew anyone who intended or needed to pass the night to be ignored. Some sofa or other resting-place was always found. Only two or three persons survive who remember the old home as it was. I hope there are many still like it. In the country, perhaps, where things are simple. With years came changes. The entrance to the Court, which had on the north the house of Mrs. Coates with ample yard and garden, had later a grocery store facing Federal Street, while a row of small brick dwellings filled up the spacious grounds and looked up Federal Court. The pasture was sold in lots and became Winthrop Place. A narrow passage-way in the rear of a row of houses was evened off, by selling a little to be added to the Federal Court estate, and a gate into the lane was bestowed as a special privilege. The land in front of the house was sold, the precious pear-trees cut down, and a large, frowning structure erected for a Quaker Meeting-house. The space between the Court and Federal Street was sold, and three brick houses built. The spacious grounds of the estate near were cut up into lots and became Milton Place. The fence at the end of the Court was removed, posts and a chain put in its place, the side walks being without obstruction. The Federal Court house was altered somewhat after awhile, but remained as above described until 1826."

## VI.—PHILLIPS FAMILY.

A writer in Harper's Magazine once said: "A Phillips crossed the water with John Winthrop, and from him descended a long line of ministers, judges, governors, and councillors—a sterling race, temperate, just, and high-minded."

A very complete genealogy of this family has been written by Mr. A. M. Phillips, but here the direct descent is given briefly only of the one who married Hamilton Willis.

Rev. George Phillips, the first minister of Watertown, Mass., came from England in 1630 on the ship "Arbella" with Governor Winthrop. He was born at Rainham St. Martin's, in Norfolk, and educated at Cambridge, England, and was a clergyman of the Established Church. His first wife was said to be a daughter of Richard Sargent, and died soon after she reached Salem, Mass., where they landed; later he married again Elizabeth ——. He died July 1st, 1644. By his first wife he had:

1. Samuel, born in England in 1625, probably at Boxted, in Suffolk. He was the first minister at Rowley, Mass., and died April 22nd, 1696. Married Sarah Appleton, and had:
2. Samuel, born March 23rd, 1657-8, who lived in Salem, died October 13th, 1722. He married Mary Emerson, and had:
3. Samuel, born February 17th, 1689-90, and died June 5th, 1771. He was the first minister of the old South Church in Andover. He married Hannah White, and had:
4. Samuel, born February 13th, 1715, died August 21st, 1790. He was one of the founders of the Academy at Andover with his brother John and his son Samuel. He married Elizabeth Barnard, and had:
5. Samuel, born February 7th, 1752, died February 10th, 1802. He was known as Judge Phillips. Married Phœbe Foxcroft, and had:
6. John, born October 18th, 1776, died September 10th, 1820. He married Lydia Gorham, and had:
7. Samuel, born May 8th, 1801, died January 21st, 1877. He married Sarah Allen Swett, and had:
8. Helen, born June 5th, 1834, who married Hamilton Willis.